

EPIPHANY

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

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 Hastings Common, through the same door.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 12, 2020

Preaching Today

Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate

Liturgist

Don Johnson

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Reading the Call to Annual Meeting

Jim Greaney, Clerk *pro tempore*

Playing the Organ and Directing the Choir

Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Herr Jesu Christ zum Jordan kam

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 105

The Tree of Life My Soul Hath Seen

*GREETING

Don Johnson

- L: Siblings in the Spirit, come into this place of mercy and rest!
- C: Come, you who thirst for a deeper life and a fairer world.**
- L: Come, you who hunger for justice, and you who seek healing.
- C: Here, God offers grace and peace to us and to the world!**
- L: Here, God offers light for a new horizon and hope for a new dawn!
- C: Then let us sing the light together, pray the light together, do the works of light together for the world God loves. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

The Shepherds' Farewell

Hector Berlioz

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace:
- All: Merciful God, you have given light to the world in Jesus Christ, but we have preferred to live in darkness. Your justice protects the weak and vulnerable, yet we seek privilege and power. Your righteousness redeems the poor and needy, yet we seek wealth and possessions. Your peace upholds the oppressed and defenseless, yet we seek the security of weapons and walls. Forgive us, and lead us to true repentance, that we may trust you in all things; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**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.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

L: Friends, hear this good news: God's love lights our way to a new dawn, and God's mercy is working in our hearts even now.
The light of Christ and the peace of God be with you always.

C: And also with you!

L: Let us share this good news and greet one another now with a sign of Christ's peace.

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 396

Strong, Gentle Children

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION

Dan Smith

BAPTISMAL VOWS

*CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone who desires new life into the faith and family of Christ.
Do you who witness this sacrament promise this child of God your love, support and care?

All: We do!

L: Will you help him grow in faith and witness with him to the love and mercy of Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God!

L: Do you renew your own promises to live in the freedom of Christ, and to resist the power of evil?

All: We do, with the help of God!

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISM OF LIAM EDWARD JOYCE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BLESSING

L: Let us ask God for a blessing!

**All: Holy God, Creator of us all, give to this child,
strength for life's journey, courage in the time of trial,
the joy of faith, the freedom of love,
and the comfort of everlasting life.
And may the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forevermore.
Amen.**

The Church School (pre-K - 7th grade) is now invited to leave for church school classes. Teachers will meet their students at the side door or in the Narthex to accompany them to their class rooms. Parents can meet their children in Lindsay Chapel (through Margaret Jewett Hall and to the left) or in Coffee Hour after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Kate Layzer

READING

Matthew 3:13-17

READING

Acts 10:34-43

SERMON

Carlyle Stewart

*HYMN 267

Sun of My Soul, My Savior Dear

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Jim Greaney

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Lexi Boudreaux

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

1. The tree of life my soul hath seen,
 2. Christ's beauty doth all things excel:
 3. For happiness I long have sought,
 4. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,

'tis full of fruit and always green:
 by faith I know, but ne'er can tell
 and pleasures dearly I have bought:
 it keeps my dying faith alive;

the trees of nature fruitless be
 the glory which I now can see
 I missed them all; but now I see
 which makes my soul in haste to be

com - pared with Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 in Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 they're found in Christ, the ap - ple tree.
 with Je - sus Christ, the ap - ple tree.

Strong, Gentle Children

396

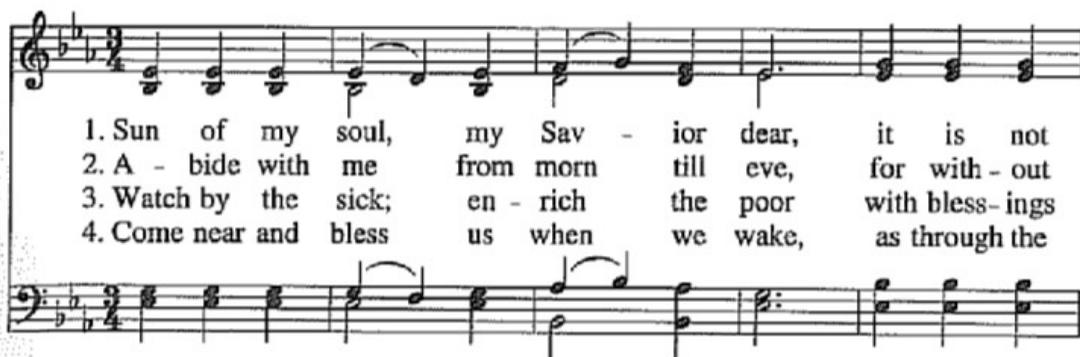
Unison

1. Strong, gen - tle chil - dren, God made you beau - ti - ful,
 2. Strong, hurt - ing chil - dren, an - gry and ter - ri - fied,
 3. Strong, know - ing chil - dren, ut - ter your cry a - loud,

gave you the wis - dom and pow - er you need;
 op - en the se - crets your life has con - cealed;
 hon - or the wis - dom God gave you at birth;

speaking in the still - ness all you are long - ing for;
 though you are wound - ed, know you are not to blame;
 speak to your el - ders till they have heard your voice;

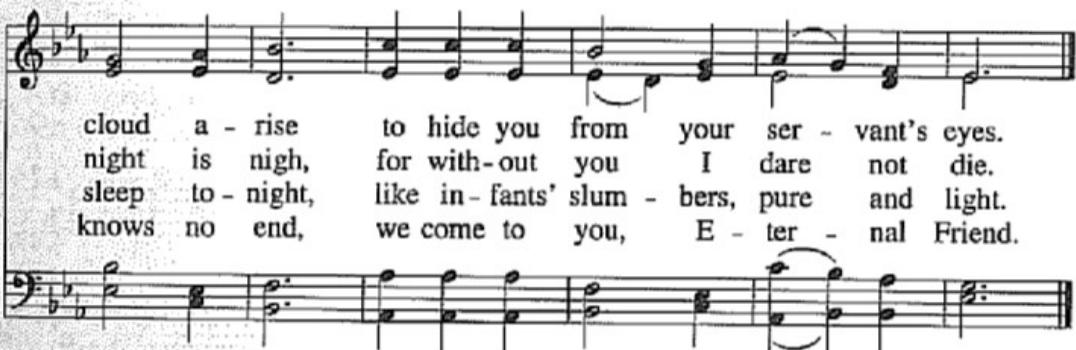
live out your call - ing to love and to lead.
 cry out your sto - ry till truth is re - vealed.
 sing out your vi - sion of heal - ing on earth.



1. Sun of my soul, my Sav - ior dear, it is not
 2. A - bide with me from morn till eve, for with - out
 3. Watch by the sick; en - rich the poor with bless - ings
 4. Come near and bless us when we wake, as through the



night if you are near; O may no earth - born
 you I can - not live; a - bide with me when
 from your bound - less store; be ev - ery mourn - er's
 world our way we take, till, saved by love which



cloud a - rise to hide you from your ser - vant's eyes.
 night is nigh, for with - out you I dare not die.
 sleep to - night, like in - fants' slum - bers, pure and light.
 knows no end, we come to you, E - ter - nal Friend.

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart 224

1. Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
 2. I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
 3. Hast thou not bid us love thee, our true Light?
 4. Teach me to feel that thou art al - ways nigh;
 5. Teach me to love thee as thine an - gels love,

warm it with hope, through all its puls - es move;
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
 All, all thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind;
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear:
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as thou art,
 no an - gel vis - it - ant, no o - pening skies,
 I see thy cross, my bea - con in the night;
 to check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;
 the bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed Dove.

and make me love thee as I ought to love.
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
 O let me seek thee, and O let me find!
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.
 My heart an al - tar, and thy love the flame.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the victims and all affected by the recent stabbing in Monsey, New York and for Jews everywhere as they confront the global resurgence of anti-Semitic violence, vandalism, and hate speech.
- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Cafe. As the weather becomes more severe, may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- For our nation and our world amid escalating hostilities between the US and Iran, that the international community may intervene to shape a just peace for all; and for the resilience of the people of Iran, Iraq, and Syria amid constant threats and violence.
- For guidance for our nation and our political leaders at this time of political upheaval and through historic impeachment proceedings. We pray for a spirit of transparency, collaboration and civility.
- 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 also for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- For all impacted by the deadly wildfires in Australia, flooding in Indonesia, and the earthquake in Puerto Rico. We offer up our sadness, fears, and grief, and pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis, including sea-level rise, coral reef destruction, storms, wildfires, and climate migration. May God awaken and empower us and our leaders to take bold steps, personally and politically, to care for God's creation and for the poor around the world who are most immediately affected by our inaction.

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.

If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith by Tuesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

RECLAIMING JESUS: Why? How? And Why Now? Today and Sundays, January, 19 & 26, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room It often feels difficult in this day and age to speak of our faith when we are outside of the religious place we might attend. This can be especially true for Christians, when it seems that Christianity with a capital C has been co-opted/defined by a more conservative or even radicalized evangelical right. Jim Wallis's new book, *Christ in Crisis, Why We Need to Reclaim Jesus*, and his podcast, "Reclaiming Jesus Now" examine our current political crisis, which Wallis calls a "deeply spiritual and dangerously moral one." He believes that we have become disconnected from Jesus, and suggests that "it is time to return to him, to come home." With Wallis as our guide, together we will consider some ways to find our way back and "reclaim Jesus." Led by Rev. Alex Steinert Evoy and others.

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS' MEETING Today, 12:30 p.m., Harter Room Our volunteer Church School Teachers meet to check-in and support each other as they walk with our children through the program year.

CONFIRMATION CLASS Today, 4:00 p.m., Harter Room First Church's 8th & 9th grade Confirmands meet for a session entitled "Living in a Religiously Diverse World." Teens from Kids4Peace Boston will be leading.

NIGHT SONG Today, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Cap your Sunday and start your week with this beautiful, contemplative, candle-lit musical service that includes choral music, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

PRAYING THE PSALMS: DAILY PRACTICE & WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Most Thursdays, ongoing, 7:15 - 8:45 a.m., Library We invite you to read, pray, and reflect on one Psalm each day (we began with Psalm 1 on Dec. 1, and will be continuing with Psalm 32 on Jan. 2, Psalm 33 on Jan. 3, etc). For the weekly Bible study, we gather for coffee or tea at 7:15 a.m. most Thursdays, beginning with a time of soulful check-in promptly at 7:30. We then dive into some reflection about the Psalms of the week, sharing what we are learning about maintaining a daily spiritual practice, alone and together. Feel free to drop in when you can, or plan to make it a regular part of your week. Our weekly study will continue this week on **Thursday, January 16**, in the Library. Questions? E-mail Dan or Brent (brentbcoffin@gmail.com).

THURSDAY EVENING MINDFULNESS MEDITATION GROUP Thursday evenings, ongoing, 6:30 p.m., The Well (Room 22) Meet for a time of quiet centering meditation. Absolutely no experience is needed or expected. Chairs and a bit of guidance are provided. Come experience a respite in the midst of busyness. Questions? Contact Hilary Hopkins: hopkinsjh@verizon.net

IN MEMORIAM Hunter Dupree, a long-time member of First Church, died on Saturday, November 30. A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, January 18, at 11:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in Margaret Jewett Hall. All members and friends are invited.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR, SUNDAY WORSHIP, January 19 Join us for a special service of worship celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. King. Participants from our recent Road to Freedom Pilgrimages to Washington, DC, will share testimony about the transformative experience of visiting the MLK JR Memorial, the Frederick Douglas House, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the National Museum of the American Indian.

TRACES OF THE TRADE: A Story from the Deep North, Film Screening, Sunday, January 19, 12:30 p.m., in Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a special screening of "Traces of the Trade." In this feature documentary, filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.

2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Sunday, January 26, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 384th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge on Sunday, January 26, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also do some looking ahead as we seek to discern where God is leading us next! Join us for this centuries-old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song!

FUTURE HAPPENINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

MIDDLER BOOK & BIBLE STUDY Sunday, February 2, 10:00 a.m., Harter Room Join First Church's 5th graders to hear about their learning over the first semester of Church School this year. Prepare by reading *Harbor Me*, a middle reader novel that the students have explored side-by-side with Biblical stories about seeking refuge, finding shelter, and offering hospitality. Copies of the novel are available for a donation of \$10; set aside some time to read the engaging story before February 2.

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON Sunday, February 2, 12:30 p.m., Hastings Common If you're new (or feeling new) to First Church, looking for ways to get involved, seeking information about our church or our denomination (The United Church of Christ), interested in meeting others who are new to the church, or in connecting with some folks who already know their way around, this luncheon is for you! Join us for a Newcomers Luncheon and meet our ministers and members, learn about our history, explore membership, learn about opportunities for service and action in the community, and hear about our faith formation and educational programs. A light lunch will be served, and childcare will be provided. All are welcome! Questions? Contact Carlyle Stewart, cstewart@firstchurchcambridge.org.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY Thursdays, beginning February 6, 6:30 p.m. Weekly Bible study sessions every Thursday led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will begin February 6. In this season of Epiphany we will start with the Gospels, while also exploring the epistles of the New Testament. We will prayerfully engage with Scripture to experience directly God's word, hoping to uncover its wisdom, teachings, and guidance for us as Christians in the world. We will not study merely as an academic discipline, but with the desire to know God more intimately. We will also learn how prayerfully to read, reflect, meditate, and contemplate the Word with the intention of making devotional reading a daily practice.

SAVE THE DATE: ALL-CONGREGATION FUN NIGHT / MOVIE NIGHT Friday, February 7, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Join us for a potluck supper followed by a screening of "Wonder," the well-received movie adaptation of an award-winning middle-reader novel about a boy with an extreme facial deformity who faces the challenges of entering a new school community. Rated PG, the movie makes an impact with its inspiring message to #ChooseKind. All are welcome to end the week with "dinner and a movie" and a bit of wonder at church! Any and all potluck dishes are encouraged.

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 384th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 26th of January, 2020, in the Margaret Jewett Hall of its Parish House at 11 Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes:

1. To approve the minutes of the January 27, 2019, Annual Meeting and the minutes of the November 24, 2019, Special Meeting.
2. To receive and act upon the 2019 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church.
3. To vote to revise the bylaws as recommended by the Executive Council, presented to the Special Meeting, and posted on the church website.
4. To vote upon the slate of Officers and the membership of Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups for 2020 as prescribed in the By-Laws or otherwise recognized by the Executive Council.
5. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

James Greaney, Clerk *pro tempore*
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 7, 2020

*First Church Homeless Ministries
Proudly Presents...*



The Village Well Gala

Join us for an evening of music, dessert, and wine to support the Friday Café and First Church Shelter, two vital community ministries that welcome and support our homeless neighbors.

**Saturday, January 25 from 7-9pm
11 Garden St., Cambridge**

**Special guest speaker Dr. Sandro Galea,
Dean of Boston University's School of Public Health**

With your help, we can strengthen our community
and help ALL our neighbors thrive!

*Tickets are \$35 each. Visit www.vancoevents.com/424
to reserve your seats or make a donation.*

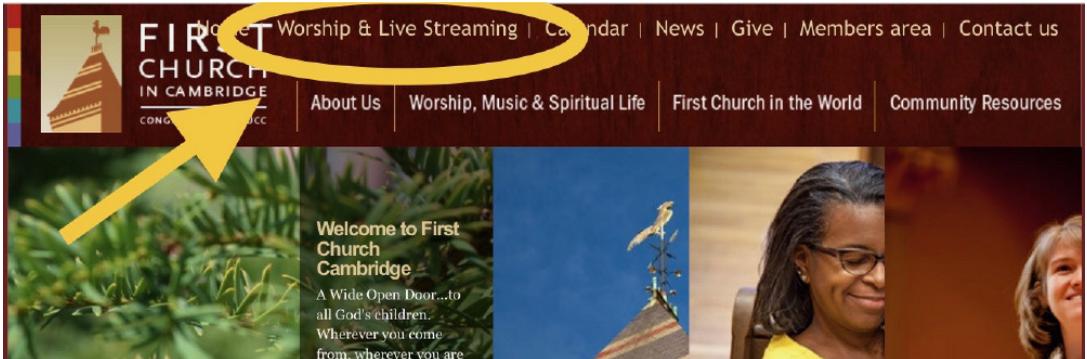
WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

MALE SURVIVORS UNITED You are invited to join together with an anonymous community of like-minded adult men affected by unwanted or abusive sexual experiences. Leave isolation behind and join our monthly phone calls for free peer support, by male survivors for male survivors. Our group is nonprofessional. We are peers, not therapists. Together we help each other reclaim our voices and our lives. The calls are at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the 2nd Sunday of each month. ***This month's call is this afternoon.*** For more information see malesurvivorsunited.org or contact First Church Deacon Bruce Hoppe confidentially at bruce@malesurvivorsunited.org

CLIMATE CHANGE EXHIBIT The Harvard Museum of Natural History is presenting an ongoing exhibit entitled “Exploring the Impact of the Warming Climate on the Planet.” Drawing on the latest scientific information about our warming climate, including both its local and global effects, this multimedia exhibit includes engaging video and storm simulations, a “check your knowledge” interactive station, and a dramatic inside look at a high-tech Argo float from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution—one of more than 4,000 deployed worldwide to monitor global oceans and climate. The museum is located at 26 Oxford Street, Cambridge.

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN? You may submit notices of church-sponsored or community events to Sarah Higginbotham via email by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday in order to be considered for the following Sunday's bulletin.

LIVE STREAMING OF MORNING WORSHIP AND NIGHT SONG NOW AVAILABLE



Thanks to a generous donation and as part of our recent sanctuary audio improvement, we now have the capacity to livestream and record our weekly worship services.

Go to our website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org and click on the “Worship and Live Streaming” link at the very top of the page.

On Sundays, 10:55 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 7:25 p.m. - 8:40 p.m., you will be able to view on any internet-connected computer or mobile device. Recordings will be archived and made available on our website.

The view is of the chancel platform only; the camera angle does not include the pews. Also, please note that you can now enjoy our worship services in real time from the monitor in Hastings Common, if, for whatever reason, you need to step out of the sanctuary.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, January 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Carlyle Stewart preaching, Sacrament of Baptism for Liam Joyce
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preK - 7th grade)
- 12:15 p.m. Fellowship & Refreshments, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teachers' Meeting, Harter Room
- 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, January 13

- 2:30 p.m. Beloved Community, Harter Room
- 6:30 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, Dan Smith's Office
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council, Harter Room

Wednesday, January 15

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:00 p.m. Investment Committee, home of Laurie Burt

Thursday, January 16

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, Library
- 6:30 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation Group, The Well (Rm. 22)
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Harter Room

Friday, January 17

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall

Saturday, January 18

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Hunter Dupree, Sanctuary

Sunday, January 19

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: "Reclaiming Jesus," Harter Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Road to Freedom Participants offering Testimonies
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: All Church School MLK Project
- 12:30 p.m. "Traces of the Trade" Film Screening, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Minister of Stewardship & Finance

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Pastoral Associate

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

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First Church in Cambridge?
Here are easy ways to do it:



First Church Give

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



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United Church of Christ
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