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ADVENT

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 December 20, 2020

##### Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister  
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate  
Jaz Buchanan, Pastoral Associate  
Sarah Higginbotham,  
Director of Creative Worship & Arts  
Peter Sykes, Music Director  
Amy Matias, Deacon  
Jim Rissling, Biss Teelucksingh, and  
Aadya Rissling Teelucksingh,  
Advent candle-lighters  
Joe Welker, tech support

##### UnPageant 2020 Cast

Jan Jeffers Lo  
Marian Smith  
Cathy Garnett  
Anna Wendelin  
Mike Wendelin  
Beth Loomis  
Nicole Haas-Loomis  
Dave Haas  
Johanna Wendelin  
Luke Wendelin  
Laurie Williams  
Jackie Buchanan  
Jaz Buchanan  
Sylvester Ackermann

Ariel Ackermann  
Domenik Ackermann  
Ada LaMaster  
Maggie LaMaster  
Steve LaMaster  
Rachelle LaMaster  
Eliza Clark  
Milly Clark  
Amy Clark  
Andy Clark  
Emma Weller  
Kate Weller  
Stefanie Haug  
Stephen Weller

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

**GATHERING****VOLUNTARY**

Jesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

**INTROIT**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Isaiah 35:1-2, 8-10

Sarah Higginbotham

**ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING**

Rissling Teelucksingh Family

L: God, we light this fourth candle of Advent.  
We kindle it with love.

**C: May that love sustain us in this time,  
and guide us in our work for compassion and justice.**

**\*HYMN 117**

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

*(see page 6)***\*GREETING**

Amy Matias

L: Together, we gather in God's love from wherever we are,

**C: from sanctuaries near and far, yet still as one body of faith.**

L: We still our minds and hearts in this moment God has given us.

**C: Returning to the first day of creation  
when God created the heavens and earth,  
light and dark, and said that it was all good,**

L: gather now and find wisdom in the dark and in the light that God created.

**C: Find grace in the shadows and dimly lit corners of life.**

L: Find strength in the waiting and in all the sacred mysteries among us.

**C: Come now, and let us prepare the way for God's glory revealed!**

**\*WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****ANTHEM**

The Friendly Beasts

*First Church Family Choir, 2015; Chris Blanc, guitar***CONFESSING****INVITATION TO CONFESSION****SILENCE**

## ADVENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: God, help us to remember that you are always present with us.  
You are present in the darkness: in the comfort and quiet amid the unrest.  
You are present in the light: in the hope and clarity amid the uncertainty,  
Be with us now, as we welcome both the light that shines  
and the darkness that gives it life, recentering ourselves within you.  
Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Dan Smith

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 Creator, 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.**

## THE UNPAGEANT 2020

## PROPHETS SHOW US THE WAY

Friday Night Bible Study Group

Isaiah 11:1-2 & 6-9

## THE ANGEL GABRIEL APPEARS TO MARY

Laurie Williams

Luke 1:26-33

### \*HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame;  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,"  
most highly favored lady! Gloria!*

**“For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations praise and honor thee,  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.”  
Most highly favored lady! Gloria!**

**MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM**

Buchanan Family

Luke 2:1-5

**\*HYMN**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see the lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

**JESUS IS BORN**

Ackermann Family

Luke 2: 6-7

**\*HYMN**

Away in a Manger

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**ANGELS ANNOUNCE HIS BIRTH**

LaMaster Family

Luke 2:8-14

**\*HYMN**

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!*

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo!**

**SHEPHERDS COME TO THE MANGER**

Clark Family

Luke 2:15-20

**\*HYMN**

The First Nowell

*The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.*

**They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

**WISE ONES TRAVEL TO VISIT A NEW KING**

Haug Weller Family

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

**\*HYMN**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

*We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O, star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.  
O, star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

Lexi Boudreaux

**\*ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
to Christ revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Spirit now we raise  
our joyful songs of thankful praise. Amen.

**\*CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Jaz Buchanan

**\*HYMN**

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and Heaven and nature sing, and Heaven and nature sing,  
and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Christ rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders, of His love.

**\*BENEDICTION**

OPENING HYMN

# Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

1. Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise are.  
2. Watch-man, tell us of the night, high-er yet that star as-cends.  
3. Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to dawn.

Trav-eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo-ry-beam-ing star.  
Trav-eler, bless-ed-ness and light, peace and truth its course por-tends.  
Trav-eler, dark-ness takes its flight, doubt and ter-ror are with-drawn.

Watch-man, does its beau-teous ray aught of joy or hope fore-tell?  
Watch-man, will its beams a-lone gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Watch-man, let thy wan-derings cease; has-ten to thy qui-et home.

Trav-eler, yes; it brings the day, prom-ised day of Is-ra-el.  
Trav-eler, a-ges are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
Trav-eler, lo, the Prince of peace, lo, the Son of God is come.

WORDS: John Bowring, 1825, alt.  
MUSIC: Joseph Parry, 1879

ABERYSTWYTH  
77.77D

## PRAYERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

- We pray for Karen McArthur's partner Linda Keith, who is recovering from a recent cardiac procedure.
- We pray for Susie Neubauer, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- We pray for Marian Smith, whose 9-year-old grandson Ian has been hospitalized recently and diagnosed with CRMO (chronic osteomyelitis) and Crohn's disease. We pray for Ian and his parents, former members Barb and Adam Kroft, and his sisters Ada and Lily.
- We pray for Jean Dany Joachim, whose father Jean Roger Joachim died recently.
- We pray for Mary Robinson and Mary Martha Thiel, whose daughter Sarah is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: 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 all who are experiencing significant loneliness in isolation as we keep physical distance from each other during this holiday season. We pray for strength and God's peace as we continue to live in uncertain and scary times.
- We pray for all those caring for elderly parents and for all who have dementia.
- We pray for the Metropolitan AME Church and Asbury United Methodist Church communities in Washington, DC, and all impacted by the public burning of Black Lives Matter signs that were forcibly removed from their properties.
- We pray for all those impacted by police violence, including the family of Casey Goodson, Jr., who are mourning the death of Casey after he was shot by police in Columbus, Ohio last week.
- We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19. We pray for health care professionals and essential workers, that they may feel supported and cared for.
- 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.
- 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: ADVENT *LECTIO DIVINA*—HOLY READING Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom** Join Dan, Lexi, and Jaz in a short conversation about reimagining advent themes of light and darkness and a time for spiritual practice called *lectio divina*, “holy reading.” In this ancient contemplative practice, we’ll read Advent scripture passages together and be invited to meditate on how God’s word intersects with our lives. Together, through word and silence, we’ll listen for God’s movement in our hearts, as we prepare to receive the light of the Christ child. [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: REMOTE CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES Today, 9:30 a.m., via Zoom** Our Godly Play classes (GP Alpha & GP Omega) will combine today to hear the story of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Our Bible 101 and Faith & Social Justice classes will also combine for some holiday fun.

[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

**FIRST CHURCH UNPAGEANT AND FESTIVE CHRISTMAS GATHERING GO ONLINE! Today, 11:00 a.m., via Live-Stream Worship** You’ll need to make your costumes at home, but the UnPageant will go on! Think shepherds in bathrobes, wise folks in fleece blanket robes, and angels in white t-shirts and halos of tinsel from your tree! If you want to be a lamb, don’t forget the sheep ears! Join from wherever you are, with whatever costumes you can muster. This year, we’ll start with our usual live-stream (with a much smaller cast than usual). But then we’ll invite you to join us on Zoom for a festive Christmas gathering - see below for details.

**FESTIVE CHRISTMAS GATHERING AT ZOOM COFFEE HOUR Today, 12:15 p.m., via Zoom** Join us following worship; bring your own Christmas cookies and sparkling cider! Extra points for UnPageant costume bits and ugly Christmas sweaters!

[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

**OUR ADVENT BANNERS** This Advent, thanks to a generous donation from Andrea Seek and Laurie Williams, we are featuring three new banners with images designed by Vermont artist Janet McKenzie. The Deacons are pleased to support this project as part of our ongoing efforts to lift up historically and biblically underrepresented images and voices of women and persons of color.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

**NEW TO FIRST CHURCH?** Have you just begun joining us for online worship? Please consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community. And then plan to join us for this month’s Newcomers’ Gathering at Zoom Coffee Hour!

**CANDLE-LIGHTING AND PRAYER TIME Today, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., Lindsay Chapel** This Advent we are offering some time on Sunday afternoons for folks to pray and to light a candle in the Chapel. The capacity is limited to four people at a time, and masks are required. In this time of reimagining what the symbols of light and dark mean to us, take some time to reconnect with the church building, spend some time in prayer, and give some light to the world.

**HAVE YOU PLEDGED?** We are over 80% 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)

## CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY AT FIRST CHURCH

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Thursday, December 24, 6:00 p.m., via YouTube Premiere** “Come all ye faithful” and celebrate with us from home by joining together online for a candlelit service of lessons and carols. Worship with us this silent and holy night as we give thanks for Emmanuel - God with us - and as we fill our sanctuary and our homes with the warmth, light, and joy of Christmas! We’ll host a brief Zoom gathering after the service to share Christmas greetings in real time. As with all our services, you can find the recording on our YouTube channel after the premiere. [Click here to join the Christmas Eve Zoom directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” with the following information: Meeting ID: 871 9836 7018 Passcode: MerryXmas!

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Friday, December 25, 11:00 a.m., via YouTube Premiere** Join us for this First Church Christmas Morning tradition. Greet the new day and the Christ child with a short online prayer service and a special harpsichord offering by Peter Sykes of William Byrd’s *The Bells*. We’ll host a brief Zoom gathering after the service to share Christmas greetings in real time. As with all our services, you can find the recording on our YouTube channel after the premiere. [Click here to join the Christmas Day Zoom directly](#), or go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and “join a meeting” with the following information: Meeting ID: 871 9836 7018 Passcode: MerryXmas!

**OUR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 WILL BE HOSTED BY THE SNEUCC** The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ will offer a special online worship service that First Church and other congregations will be using on the Sunday after Christmas. You’ll be able to access it from our website as usual. There will be no First Church-specific livestream or pre-recorded video on Youtube on December 27; instead, we will gather with our covenantal partners near and far. We will have a Zoom Coffee Hour after the worship video, hosted by Deacon Beth Spaulding; details will be on our website and in our email communications next week.

**SNEUCC EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE MINISTER REV. DARRELL GOODWIN TO PREACH Sunday, January 3, 11:00 a.m., via Live-Stream Worship** Join us for virtual morning worship at 11:00 a.m. on the Second Sunday of Christmastide when we welcome guest preacher Rev. Darrell Goodwin, the New Executive Conference Minister of the Southern New England Conference. Rev. Goodwin has most recently served the Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota Conferences as an Associate Conference Minister. He has founded a church, directed a UCC Pension Board vitality initiative, and served in a variety of roles in higher education settings. We are eager to be among the first to welcome him to New England.

**EPIPHANY WORSHIP** This year we invite you to celebrate Epiphany with us remotely and take some time for prayer and reflection during a short pre-recorded service that will be available that week. **On Wednesday January 6**, we are planning a candlelight prayer walk, weather permitting. Stay tuned for more details!

## HELPING OTHERS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

**SUPPORTING LOCAL FRIENDS AND FAMILIES AS THEY CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS** In the Advent season, we remember years past when our pulpit area was filled with coats or toys ready for donation to various organizations helping people from our community who don't have everything they need. This holiday season, our opportunities to give and support communities in need might look different, but the need is greater. The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled [a list of opportunities for donation](#) that you can find on our website. In the case that you and your family are in a position to support these organizations, we hope that you find this list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Molly Baker (mollybaker96@gmail.com) of the Missions and Social Justice Committee.

**REMEMBERING OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR FRIENDS: THEIR MISSIONS AND THEIR WARES** Out of sight in 2020, but not out of mind! The organizations that we support at Christmastime, by buying their products at our annual Alternative Christmas Fair, need our help this year as much as ever. Even though you will not be greeting them in person at a merry hubbub in MJH, you can order some goods, or make donations, at their websites. [See the vendor list on our website](#), and look for the "Shop" or "Shop Now" and the "Give" or "Donate" tabs on each vendor's site. International orders probably won't arrive in time for Christmas gifting to others, but if you see something you like, why not gift yourself and your household? And donations are easy and always received with gratitude.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**PRAYING THE PSALMS GROUP** Tuesdays beginning January 5, 7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., via Zoom  
Our Praying the Psalms group will be resuming weekly meetings via Zoom in the new year. 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 am, we'll 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.

**WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BOOK GROUP** Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom  
All those who identify as women are welcome to join the Women's Community Book Group for their next read. They will be discussing *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* by Laidiya Hartman. Please send an email to Alex Steinert-Evoy (alex@steinert-evoy.org) to be added to the group's email list to receive the Zoom invitation.

## WIDER COMMUNITY ACTIONS AND EVENTS

**DONATE TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS IN CENTRAL AMERICA** Hurricanes Eta and Iota have hit Central America with devastating consequences. Our Community Minister in Latin America Monica Maher invites our help through the Friends Peace Teams Peacebuilding *en las Américas* program, of which she is a part. Partners in Honduras and Guatemala have been particularly affected. The situation, already dire due to Covid, hunger and violence, is now much worse. Please consider supporting those impacted through fervent prayers for their safety and a donation to Peacebuilding *en las Américas*. [Donate today.](#)

**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.

**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.

***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.***

## LOOKING AHEAD

### **December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Advent *Lectio Divina*, via Zoom  
9:30 a.m. Children's Formation: Remote Church School, via Zoom  
11:00 a.m. Live-Stream Morning Worship, Multigenerational UnPageant  
12:15 p.m. Festive Christmas Gathering at Coffee Hour, via Zoom  
4:00 p.m. Candlelit Prayer in Chapel  
5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

### **Monday, December 21**

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

### **Tuesday, December 22**

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

### **Wednesday, December 23**

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom  
4:00 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

***The Church Building and Office will be closed from December 24 to January 3.***

### **Thursday, December 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship, via YouTube Premiere

### **Friday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 11:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship, via YouTube Premiere  
1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

### **Saturday, December 26**

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

### **Sunday, December 27**

- 11:00 a.m. SNEUCC Morning Worship, via YouTube Premiere  
11:30 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour  
5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

***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  
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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  
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### Director of Operations

Kirsten Manville  
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### Facilities Manager

Kris McQuage-Loukas  
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### Office Assistant

Bruce Dillenbeck  
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### Technical Support

Joe Welker

### Sextons

Douglas Casey, Rebecca LaFrance,  
George Williams, Kimel Williams  
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