

EASTERTIDE

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 weeks 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

May 24, 2020

Leading Worship

Dan Smith, Senior Minister
Sarah Higginbotham, Director of Creative Worship & Arts
Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate
Carlyle Stewart, Pastoral Associate
Peter Sykes, Music Director

The photograph on the bulletin cover is by Gaylen Morgan.

GATHERING

*Please bring a bowl of water, a few scraps of paper,
and a pen or pencil to your home altar.
We will use these during our Time for Healing Prayer.*

VOLUNTARY

Praeludium

Carson Cooman

*HYMN 417

All My Hope On God Is Founded

(see page 4)

*GREETING

Sarah Higginbotham

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

C: From God our Creator, source of beauty, healing and hope!

L: Welcome! Be at home in the presence of Love,

C: Love divine, stronger than death!

L: Welcome! Be at home in the companionship of Jesus our brother:

C: The Risen Christ who breathes peace into our hearts and world.

L: Be at home in God and in this time of worship.

And lift up your hearts in praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

Dan Smith

ANTHEM

Lord, Grant Thou Me A Quiet Mind
First Church Choir, 2018

Arlen Clarke

Lord, grant Thou me a quiet mind,
In depths of Thee and thought inclined.
O gaze upon this wounded heart,
And with Thy sweet and piercing Dart
Prick this soul with Love's embrace,
And heal these wounds with saving grace.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
(Sing through twice.)**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE AND SHARED CHECK-IN

OPENING THE WORD

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Lexi Boudreaux

READING

Psalm 137

READING

Luke 19:41-44

HOMILY

Carlyle Stewart

A TIME FOR HEALING PRAYER

*When prompted, you are invited to jot down prayers for yourself, loved ones and our world.
This is a chance to express and share with God our fears, sorrows, anger and confusion.
We will be invited to place our prayers in a bowl of water, a symbol of our shared tears.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer 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.**

*HYMN 470

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

(see page 5)

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

You may give online from your bank account [at our website](#) or by text from your debit/credit card by texting the amount to 844-996-0982.

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 100

By Gracious Powers

(see page 6)

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Intermezzo

Carson Cooman

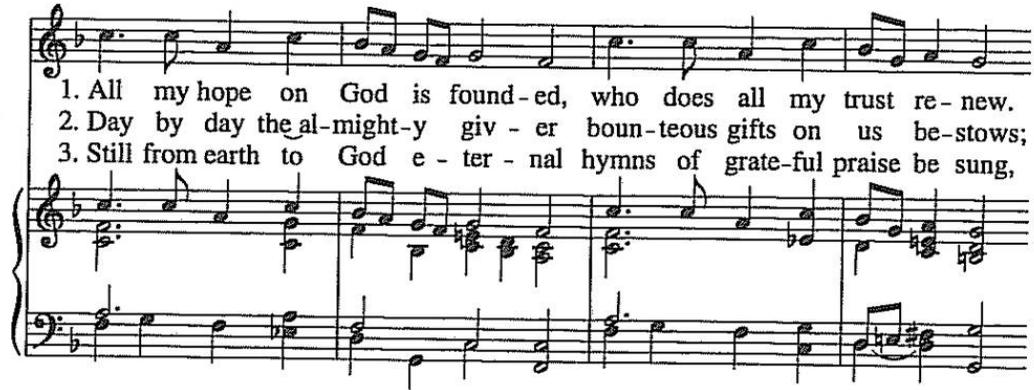
CONGREGATIONAL CHECK-IN

At this time, you are invited to email Dan or Sarah with your questions, prayer concerns, or check-ins, to be shared via the live-stream.

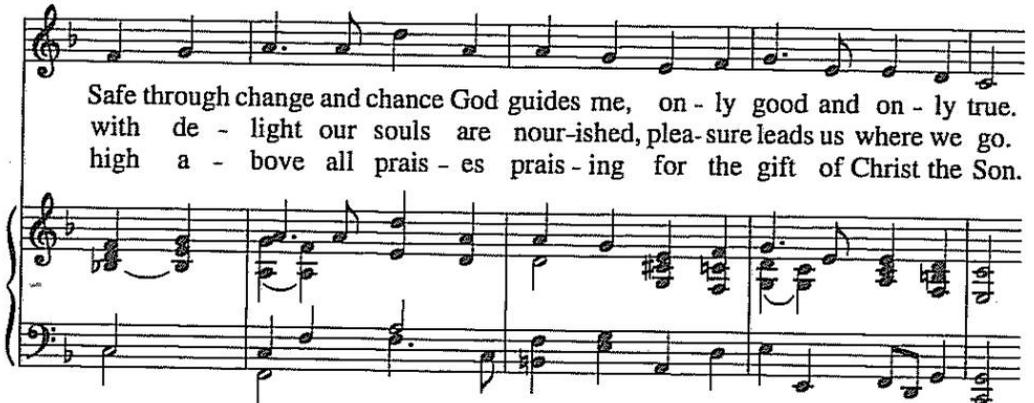
Dan's email: dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sarah's email: shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org

OPENING HYMN

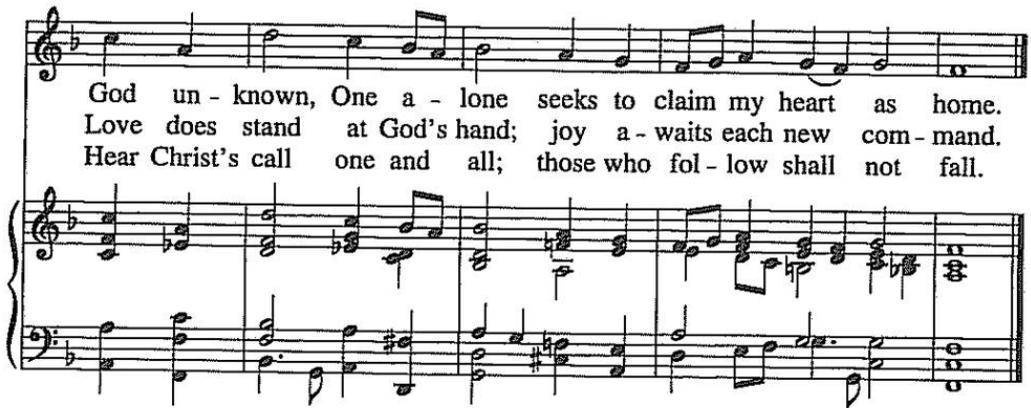
All My Hope on God Is Founded



1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does all my trust re-new.
2. Day by day the al-might-y giv-er boun-teous gifts on us be-stows;
3. Still from earth to God e-ter-nal hymns of grate-ful praise be sung,



Safe through change and chance God guides me, on-ly good and on-ly true.
with de-light our souls are nour-ished, plea-sure leads us where we go.
high a-bove all prais-es prais-ing for the gift of Christ the Son.



God un-known, One a-lone seeks to claim my heart as home.
Love does stand at God's hand; joy a-waits each new com-mand.
Hear Christ's call one and all; those who fol-low shall not fall.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1899, alt.
MUSIC: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

MICHAEL
87.87.337

SERMON HYMN

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2. When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

WORDS and MUSIC: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932

PRECIOUS LORD
66.9D

CLOSING HYMN

By Gracious Powers

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system includes four numbered verses. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system continues the lyrics. The fourth system concludes the piece with a final cadence. There are some performance markings such as '(b)' and a fermata over the final chord.

1. By gra-cious powers so won-der-ful-ly shel-tered,
2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor-ment-ed,
3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim-ming
4. Yet when a-gain in this same world you give us

and con-fi-dent-ly wait-ing, come what may,
still e-vil days bring bur-dens hard to bear;
with bit-ter suf-f'ring, hard to un-der-stand,
the joy we had, the bright-ness of your sun,

we know that God is with us night and morn-ing,
O give our fright-ened souls the sure sal-va-tion
we take it thank-ful-ly and with-out trem-bling,
we shall re-mem-ber all the days we lived through,

and nev-er fails to greet us each new day.
for which, O God, you taught us to pre-pare.
out of so good and so be-loved a hand.
and our whole life shall then be yours a-lone.

WORDS: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1944; tr. Fred Pratt Green, 1972
MUSIC: Herbert G. Hobbs, 1976; harm. Jan Helmut Wubbena, 1976

BONHOEFFER
11 10.11 10

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For George Williams who is grieving the recent losses of his grandmother Mattie Bell Williams and his aunt Clara Jean Williams, who both died of COVID-19.
- For Moana Bentin's sister Katie, who completed chemotherapy in early April and is now in her fifth week of radiation treatments in India, which is still on lockdown.
- For Jenn Marshall, her partner Claire, and daughter Simone as they grieve the loss of Jenn's mother, Sharon Marshall, who died recently from complications following a stroke at the age of 76.
- For Pam Pacelli and Rob Cooper as they grieve the loss of Pam's mother, who died of COVID-19 on May 7.
- For Cynthia Shoemaker, who has been diagnosed with Covid-19, but has thus far been relatively symptom-free. We pray for her health and that of the staff and other residents at Courtyard Nursing Care Center in Medford.
- For all who are grieving the loss of loved ones due to Covid-19; for all those who are ill with COVID-19 and their families; and for all of us who are learning to navigate this strange new world, that we may receive God's comfort, strength, and peace.
- For all essential workers, who continue to put themselves at risk to care for the sick and most vulnerable, maintain our food supply, deliver supplies, keep our public services running, and lead us through this crisis.
- For African Americans and communities of color around the country that are facing disproportionately high rates of coronavirus death and infection, revealing entrenched inequalities in resources and access to healthcare.
- For Asian Americans as they face unwarranted discrimination and hostility during this Covid-19 pandemic and for those who have already become the victim of hate crimes, including assaults and beatings.
- For all who are experiencing unemployment or underemployment during this crisis, including undocumented workers who cannot find a safety net in our government's response.
- For the families of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, whose recent killings show the appalling effects of racial prejudice and hatred that continue to exist in this country. We mourn these killings and others like them, and our prayers are with all communities that have been targeted.
- For all who are in treatment for cancer: Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Mark Deck, Sarah Fujiwara's brother-in-law; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Becky Collet, Karen Anne Zee's daughter; Stewart Bailey, Karen Anne Zee's son-in-law; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For the 14 men who are finding care and residence in our First Church Shelter and for the guests of the Friday Café, who are experiencing worsening deprivation and hardship in this time of disruption; that may they know warmth, compassion, and companionship.
- 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 tranquility for immigrants who live in constant fear and anxiety. And we pray for all who are working for a just and compassionate future for immigrants and asylum seekers.
- We offer up our fears and grief, and we pray for God's strength as we combat the realities of the climate crisis. May God 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 affected by our inaction.

If you would like us to include a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Dan Smith or Sarah Higginbotham by Tuesday morning,

FIRST CHURCH'S PLANS FOR PHASED RE-OPENING

This week, Governor Baker announced the loosening of restrictions for houses of worship in the state of Massachusetts. The opportunity to re-open is good news; however, the continuing threat of COVID-19 obliges us to re-open thoughtfully and carefully.

As a community of faith that seeks to protect the health and safety of each and every member of the body of Christ, we have decided to delay any changes to our current model of live-streamed worship until at least July. In July and August, we will experiment with inviting a small number of members to attend worship in-person to participate as lay leaders in the online worship for the wider community. This will allow us to begin to get comfortable with our health and safety protocols, so that we can carefully prepare for the time when more and more of us will be able to gather. It will also provide the opportunity for you to see more people leading our worship.

Any changes we make to our current practices are dependent on public health data and COVID-19 case counts in Massachusetts. Our plans might need change to assure the safety of all. We hope that this summer will bring new ways of being together as a church and provide a time of exploration and inspiration in this season of uncertainty. It may be a while before we can all see each other again on Sunday mornings, but that remains our goal. With God's help, we'll get there when the time is right.

We look forward to describing our plans during the Congregational Check-In after worship today and in our Zoom Coffee Hour next Sunday.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

SERVICE OF LAMENTATION AND HEALING Today, 11:00 a.m., via livestream Throughout this time of pandemic, many of have endured intense loss. Today's worship is a time to hold those losses together as a community. Join us and hold the space as we lift up lamentations and prayer for healing. Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will lead the service and offer a homily, and Dan, Sarah, and Lexi will lead the service. You are invited to text or e-mail Dan with your prayers and the names of those who are on your heart, to be lifted up in prayer during a ritual of prayer and healing.

MIDDLER CLASS WRAP-UP Today, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom Our 5th graders will gather for a wrap-up session of the Middler class this afternoon with co-teachers Sarah Higginbotham and Sam Menapace. The Zoom invitation was sent to each family via email.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL OF EMAIL SCAMS Once again, someone has set up several Gmail addresses that appear to be Dan Smith soliciting help. Sadly, this is happening to various clergy across the country. This is a scam. Please do not respond. Dan or other First Church staff would never ask for any kind of donations to be sent directly to him (or directly to others). Any such donations would be channeled through First Church. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. 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.

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:

May 17, 2020: Mass (Extraordinary Form), St. John Cantius Parish, Chicago

Traditional Latin mass of the Catholic Church with Gregorian chant propers, offered in a very resonant building ideal for chant. In this live stream mass from May 17 the chant is sung especially well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQchS38WGk8>

May 17, 2020: Compline at St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle

A very fine compline liturgy live streamed every Sunday at 9:30 PM. On this occasion they included a couple joyful Easter hymns.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yv_zxUD2f8

July 7, 2017 Traditional Mass at Notre Dame, Paris

Solemn traditional Latin mass with men and women singing Gregorian chant, organ, choir and strings in a packed cathedral.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=EBuzm0iMRlc>

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

HISTORY IS NOW: A REQUEST FROM THE ARCHIVES GROUP We invite you to share your experiences and ideas about the pandemic and the role First Church has had in your lives during this period. You may do this through words, images, or whatever format makes sense to you (maybe a video or audio recording). Submit your reflections to the First Church blog on the forum at www.waterinthewilderness.org/forum. On this site you will find guided questions to use, if you need them, to get started. Some entries will be selected to become part of First Church's permanent Archives collection. History is now.

DAILY MEDITATIONS FROM RICHARD ROHR Several of us at First Church have been following the writings of the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr. His teachings are as accessible as they are profound. If you would like to receive a daily reading to help you learn about and ground yourself more deeply in Christian tradition, especially through these trying times, you can sign up here: <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations>. Dan Smith and Alex Steinert-Evoy will be choosing a date soon for a weekly drop-in call in which we can share brief reflections on the daily devotions for a given week.

SUPPORT CALL FOR FIRST CHURCH CAREGIVERS 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, let's schedule a time to listen, share, pray, and process. Dan Smith will send information shortly on the date and time of the call.

NEW PRAYER MINISTRY In these times, we all have so many prayers on our hearts, whether they be for family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, or the world at large. As a congregation, while we can't physically be together, we can still hold one another's concerns in prayer collectively. If you are interested in receiving a weekly email with prayer requests from our church community to pray for throughout the week, [please complete this google form](#). Please send prayer requests to Pastoral Associate Lexi Boudreaux (lexi@firstchurchcambridge.org).

ONGOING PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- **Mondays** FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.
- **Tuesdays** Street Outreach Check-in with Kate Layzer, 4:00 p.m.
- **Wednesdays** Midweek FCC Prayer & Connection Call, 12:00 p.m.
- **Thursdays** Praying the Psalms with Dan Smith & Brent Coffin, 7:15 a.m.;
FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham, 12:00 p.m.
Weekly Bible Study with Carlyle Stewart, 6:00 p.m.;
First Church Choir Call with Peter Sykes, 7:45 p.m.
- **Fridays** Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, 8:00 a.m.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAYING CONNECTED

FIRST CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL Continue to tune into our First Church YouTube channel as we offer pre-recorded reflections and devotions, led by Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart. The recorded uploads consist of scripture lessons, devotions, and reflections that explore how our faith tradition can inform us about current events, and strengthen us throughout this challenging time. The link to the channel is: <https://tinyurl.com/ryac3av>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

POOR PEOPLE’S CAMPAIGN WEBINAR Tuesday, May 26, 6:00-7:00 p.m., via Zoom Pastoral Associate Carlyle Stewart will host an informational session about the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The campaign will be hosting the largest digital gathering of poor, dispossessed and impacted people, faith leaders, and people of conscience on June 20, 2020. The campaign addresses the interlocking injustices of poverty, militarism and the war economy, ecological devastation, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism. Tune in to find out more about the campaign and how to get involved! And please register for the June gathering by [clicking here to sign up](#).

SPECIAL FORMATION HOUR ON PENTECOST Sunday, May 31, 9:45 a.m., via Zoom We will each be making “Tongues of Fire” at 10 O’Clock Hour Zoom workshop and will share them virtually! Look around your house to see what materials you might use. [Red, orange, and yellow construction paper or sticky notes? Pipe cleaners? Tissue or wrapping paper? Legos? Building blocks? The sky’s (and your home-based collection of things) the limit!] Plan how you will make your Tongues of Fire. Maybe you could practice a bit before Pentecost, so that it will only take you about half an hour to make your Tongues of Fire when we gather in our workshop. Then collect everything you will need for the workshop on Sunday morning, May 31, so you will be ready to get right to work. The Pentecost story (Acts 2:1-21) also tells us how the Apostles spoke in many languages. Do you know a language other than English? Practice a greeting in another language to share at the Pentecost 10:00 hour, and we will all hear each other together! Note: Adults and kids alike are warmly invited to share this formational hour together.

PENTECOST SUNDAY and CONFIRMATION SUNDAY and JOINING SUNDAY, Sunday, May 31, via livestream worship Pentecost will be a special celebration with the Rite of Confirmation, as well as the joining of new members. Tune in to honor the spiritual journeys of our seven Confirmands and to welcome many of them into membership by covenant. We will also welcome several adults who have discerned that First Church has become their spiritual home. Be prepared for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we worship together, even from our

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

separate locations. And don't forget to Zoom in to an interactive 10 O'Clock Hour with Christian Formation Committee members Hilary Hopkins and Ariel Ackermann, where you can hear the Pentecost story and participate in a craft workshop to make your own "tongues of fire!"

FAREWELL SUNDAY FOR CARLYLE STEWART Sunday, June 7, via livestream worship with reception to follow via Zoom Over the past two years, Carlyle's deep spirit, inspired preaching, faithful teaching, and welcoming ministry have moved us all and transformed our community. Amidst the grief of goodbye, there is much to celebrate. We will send him off with our blessings, confident in whatever God may have in store for him and us next! There will be a Zoom coffee after the service where we will celebrate Carlyle's gifts (and share some with him, too)!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY June 14, via livestream worship First Church will celebrate the end of the church school program year in a virtual way on Children's Sunday, June 14. The 6th and 7th graders of our Bible 101 class will pre-record their "Gospel Play," and members of the 5th grade Middler class will contribute as virtual liturgists. We will recognize our 4th grade "graduates" of Godly Play with the presentation of Bibles, honor our church school teachers for their gifts of time and talent throughout the year, and celebrate the many graduates in the congregation who have completed academic programs from high school through graduate school. There is so much to be grateful for!

BLESSING OF ALL GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2020 Sunday, June 14, via livestream worship A blessing of our graduates will take place during morning worship. Please send photos of yourself or your graduate to Administrative Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck at: bdillenbeck@firstchurchcambridge.org. We will share them in a slideshow with the congregation!

SPRING/SUMMER FAITH & LIFE GROUPS We are almost (but not quite) ready to announce a new Spring/Summer line-up of Faith & Life groups. Led by First Church members, 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) to something that might be delightful, deep, or even transformational. At the same time, you can get to know First Church friends who share your interest. Information about topics, leaders, scheduling and sign-ups will be available soon! Questions? Looking to lead a group? Please contact Lexi Boudreaux, Pastoral Associate. Stay tuned!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FOR COVID-19 TRAINING, OPEN TO ALL ONLINE Sometime during the month of May, Mental Health Awareness month, claim an hour or so of time to engage in this free, hour-long online Mental Health First Aid training from the American Red Cross: <https://tinyurl.com/ya3xvnxt>. Here's a little about what to expect in the training:

Mental health first aid is the practice of recognizing and responding to people experiencing crisis-related stress and can be performed by anyone. The uncertainty associated with a global health crisis like COVID-19 challenges everyone's ability to cope. This course will help you to build resilience and support yourself and others through this crisis by reviewing basic principles of providing psychological first aid, including how to recognize and manage stress in yourself and in others and how to lend support to family members, friends and coworkers during and following the COVID-19 outbreak.

And aside from the particularity of the pandemic, this training is just generally helpful in preparing to be a good caregiver to your loved ones and peers and to care for yourself in the process! The American Red Cross training is text-based. So if you'd prefer text and video and someone talking you through a training (in a Kiwi accent!), you are encouraged to access the "Psychological First Aid during COVID-19" training offered on YouTube through the New Zealand Red Cross.

We will offer a Zoom call on June 1 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss your experience with the training and any questions or concerns that came up for you. These trainings offer us an opportunity to use our time of physical distance from one another to prepare ourselves to become more skillful and compassionate caregivers.

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

SUPPORT AN ACT REGARDING DECARCERATION AND COVID-19 The state legislature is considering a bill to address the dangerous overcrowding in prisons. [H.4652](#), was filed by Rep. Mike Connolly and Rep. Sabadosa and 27 others. [Please write or call your state representative to express support for this urgent humanitarian response](#). According to Greater Boston Legal Services, COVID-19 has created a dire situation for the thousands of people who are currently incarcerated in Massachusetts, including detained immigrants. Jails and prisons are like cruise ships or nursing homes, where COVID-19 spreads rapidly. Over 600 incarcerated people and staff from Massachusetts jails and prisons have already tested positive for the new coronavirus. The SJC has used its power to let out a very small number of people held pre-trial, but 95% of incarcerated people are still incarcerated and at risk. H. 4652 starts addressing this problem by releasing people who are particularly susceptible to the virus, who are nearing the end of their sentence, and who are incarcerated for minor violations. The bill also ensures that all incarcerated people have access to cleaning supplies and ways to stay in contact with their families.

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO SUPPORT THE SAFE COMMUNITIES ACT In this time of COVID-19, it's clear that a public health response to a pandemic must include everyone. Swift movement on Safe Communities is needed this legislative session, so that immigrants know they can safely access help, treatment, and protection without fear of deportation. Click here to access a list of actions you can take this week to help bring the Safe Communities Act out of committee by the June 1 deadline: bit.ly/SCAweekofaction

FOOD INSECURITY IS RISING Leave your food pantry donations in the box on Hilary's front porch at 30 Winslow St., Cambridge, any time between now and June 12. Hilary is .75 mile from First Church, just off Sherman St. where it diverges from Garden St. She will see that your donations are delivered on the second Saturday of the month, which is when the pantry is open. NEEDED: cereal, canned fruit and veggies, proteins, pasta and sauce; also feminine products (pads, tampons). No fresh food. Please be sure your contributions are unopened, unexpired, and not in glass containers. Thank you for your generous donations!

VOLUNTEER TO BAKE SOME GOODIES OR DISTRIBUTE PRE-PACKAGED MEALS TO HUNGRY CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS First Church is partnering with the City and local restaurants to distribute free evening meals on Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If you would like to volunteer to set up, bag, and serve meals from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on one of those days, or if you would like to make a few dozen sweet treats to hand out on one of these evenings, please visit <https://signup.com/go/DCsUUei>. Thank you!

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

OUR NEIGHBOR CITY OF CHELSEA is in high need of funding for food programs and support for the city in this time of Pandemic. Consider making a donation to **The One Chelsea Fund** set up by the United Way. This fund is distributed by the Chelsea Collaborative and other organizations that have been tirelessly sewing face masks and delivering food. If you have funds to spare, please give as you are able: <https://unitedwaymassbay.org/covid-19/the-one-chelsea-fund/>

SUGGESTED WAYS TO DONATE FROM THE MISSIONS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Looking for ways to support our community during this unprecedented time of need? The Missions and Social Justice Committee has compiled and vetted a short list of organizations looking for assistance to aid in their work in the COVID-19 response - locally, regionally, and internationally. Please go to: <https://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/news/ways-to-help>.

HOW TO MAKE A BETTER FUTURE: PERSPECTIVES AMIDST A PANDEMIC

Sundays, May 17, May 31, and June 14, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

Join us for a series of hour-long Zoom sessions led by First Church members Ed Baker, Laurie Burt and Bill Hsiao. They will share stories and reflections about finding hope amidst the Covid-19 crisis and about how we can work together towards building a better society. Following a short presentation each week, there will be a brief follow-up conversation amongst Ed, Laurie and Bill, as well as a time for questions from participants on the call.



Sunday, May 17: On Public Health and Leadership

Ed Baker, former Assistant Surgeon General in the US Public Health Service and former Director of CDC's Public Health Practice Program Office, currently serves as Adjunct Professor in Health Policy and Management at UNC and Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at Harvard Chan School. Ed is a board-certified physician and was trained in epidemiology in the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and at Harvard School of Public Health.

The first session was recorded and is available on our blog: waterinthewilderness.org.



Sunday, May 31: On Climate Change

Laurie Burt, former commissioner of the MA Department of Environmental Protection and vice chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), currently offers independent strategic advice on clean energy, climate and environmental policies to foundations, non-profits, businesses and government throughout the country. Laurie has practiced environmental law for over 30 years and serves on many boards including the Union for Concerned Scientists, CERES, and the American Repertory Theater.



Sunday, June 14: On Fixing Health Care

Bill Hsiao is an economist who teaches at Harvard School of Public Health and has studied health care systems for more than forty years. Besides the State of Vermont, he designed reforms of national health care systems for nine countries. Presently he serves on the Governor's Commission on Healthy Californians for All at the invitation of California Governor Gavin Newsom. He wrote an article in the January/February 2020 Foreign Affairs called *How to Fix American Health Care: What Other Countries Can—and Can't—Teach the United States*.

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, May 24

- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Service of Lamentation and Healing, via live-stream
- 12:15 p.m. Congregational Check-In regarding phased re-opening plans, via live-stream
- 4:00 p.m. Middler Church School Class, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Monday, May 25 - Memorial Day

- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Tuesday, May 26

- 4:00 p.m. Street Outreach Call with Kate Layzer
- 6:00 p.m. Poor People's Campaign Webinar

Wednesday, May 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. Midweek Pray & Connection Call with Alex Steinert-Evoy and Dan Smith
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Thursday, May 28

- 7:30 a.m. Praying the Psalms, via Zoom
- 12:00 p.m. FCC Kids' Prayer & Connection Call with Sarah Higginbotham
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:45 p.m. Choir Call, via Zoom

Friday, May 29

- 8:00 a.m. Spiritual Practices with Lexi Boudreaux, via Zoom
- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café lunch bag pickup, Tower Room

Saturday, May 30

- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost

- 9:45 a.m. Pentecost Craft Workshop, via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Confirmation & Joining Sunday
- 12:30 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 2:00 p.m. Youth Group, via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Meal Distribution, Tower Room

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
617-547-2724, ext. 22
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

Carlyle Stewart
carlyle@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
facilities@firstchurchcambridge.org

Office Assistant

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

Sextons

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

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