

Season of Epiphany
Hybrid Morning Worship
February 20, 2022

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

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL

386 YEARS

ON THE WAY

1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 2

Sunday, February 20, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Ebony West, *Ministerial Intern*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Bruce Hoppe, *liturgist*
Kevin Newell, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *Youth Group member*

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image & Imagination, [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:00 p.m. [Zoom](#) Coffee Hour
- 12:00 p.m. Newcomers Meet and Greet, Hastings Common
- 12:45 p.m. Welcoming Ministry Team Meeting, The Landing and [via Zoom](#)
- 4:30 p.m. Young Adults: Film Screening in Dorchester
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out this [“virtual visitor card”](#) so that we might reach out and connect with you about our community.

Give to First Church

You can give online at www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give or by texting “\$___” to: 1-844-996-0982.

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website.

Have a church program or event to promote?
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form.

GATHERING

Masks will be lowered by worship leaders when speaking, at their discretion.

VOLUNTARY

Moderato, op. 22, no. 1

Niels Gade

*HYMN 363

In The Midst of New Dimensions

*GREETING

Bruce Hoppe

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, let us gather in prayer and song.

C: Come, one and all, in person and online, across time and space.

L: Here may God's presence embolden us with strength and courage.

C: Here may God's light show us the path toward healing and justice.

L: Here may God's glory kindle sustaining hope and faith in each of our hearts.

C: Come, let us worship God in all of her holy mysteries and revelations.

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Sunshine in My Soul

Eliza E. Hewitt

1. *There is sunshine in my soul today,
more glorious and bright
than glows in any earthly sky,
for Jesus is my light.*

Refrain:

*O there's sunshine, blessed sunshine,
when the peaceful happy moments roll:
When Jesus shows his smiling face,
there is sunshine in the soul.*

2. *There is music in my soul today,
A carol to my King,*

*And Jesus, listening, can hear
The songs I cannot sing. [Refrain]*

3. *There is springtime in my soul today,
For when the Lord is near,
The dove of peace sings in my heart,
The flowers of grace appear. [Refrain]*

4. *There is gladness in my soul today,
And hope and praise and love
For blessings which he gives me now,
For joys "laid up" above. [Refrain]*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**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.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of Glory, you have given light to the world through Jesus Christ. But seeking comfort in privilege and power, distracting ourselves with wealth and possessions, exploiting the earth and all of your sacred creation, we are led away from you. Forgive us, and lead us to repent and return. Help us to see with our hearts and our imaginations, and to discover your light, love, and peace in unexpected places. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Hastings Common after worship.

*HYMN 353

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

ORDINATION OF DEACONS

INVITATION

Lexi Boudreaux

THE CANDIDATES' PROMISES

Dan Smith

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

L: Do you affirm these deacons' gifts of care and leadership?

All: We do.

L: Will you receive, respect and respond to their ministry among you?

All: We will.

L: Will you uphold and enfold them and all the deacons of this church with your prayer and gratitude?

All: We will.

*THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

The laying on of hands is an ancient practice by which, through human touch, the Holy Spirit consecrates ("sets apart") and confirms persons called to particular ministries in a community. It is also a sign that these leaders stand in a long and living line of servants who have been called from within their communities for this same ministry.

*ORDINATION PRAYER AND DECLARATION

INSTALLATION PRAYER

L: Let us pray:

**All: We welcome you in this ministry with hope, and we install you in joy!
Trust God, seek the Spirit's consolation, love this congregation
with all your hearts, serve, forbear, witness, and lead,
in the name of the good and gracious God.
Amen.**

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

READING Luke 6:27-38

SERMON Lexi Boudreaux

MUSICAL MEDITATION Allegretto, op. 22, no. 2 Niels Gade

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD Ebony West

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 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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING



Give by Text



Give Online



I've Given Already



Pledge for 2022

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 244

Like a Tree Beside the Waters

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Allegro, op. 22, no. 3

Niels Gade



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

In the Midst of New Dimensions

363

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3. Though we reach the high-est heav - ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,
 4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-d'ring in their sep-'rate ways?
 who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.
 may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, we your

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er, now and ev-er, now and ev - er - more.

353 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
2. Christ's ex - am-ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
4. So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu-man life



we re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-rs strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,

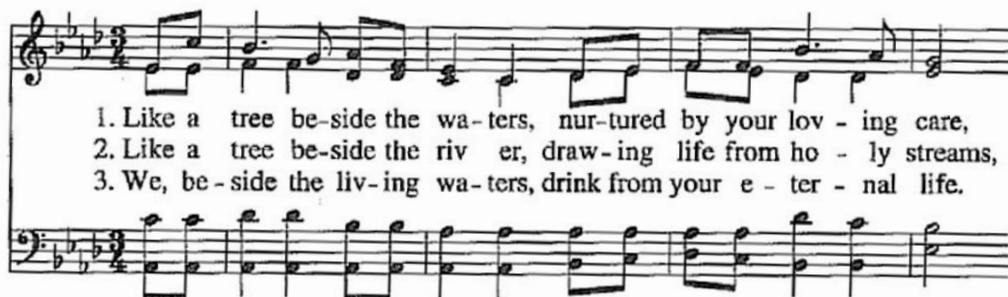


e - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth - er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
 bring new pow'r and strength for ac - tion, make us part-ners, free and fair.
 mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

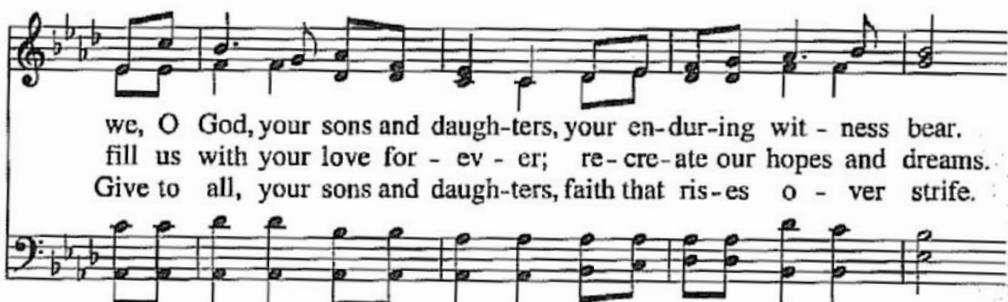


244

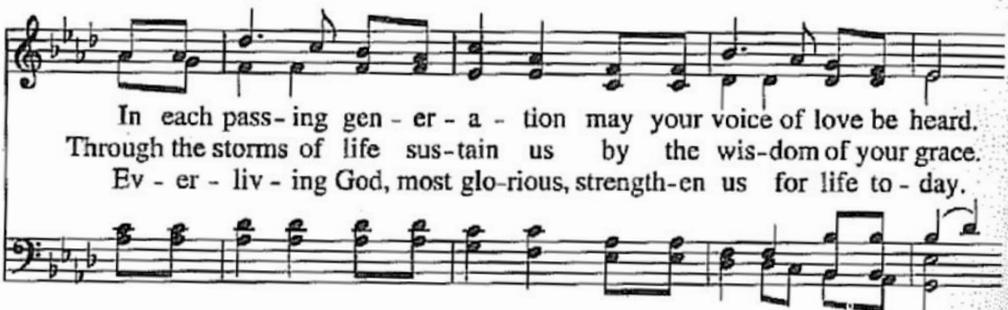
Like a Tree Beside the Waters



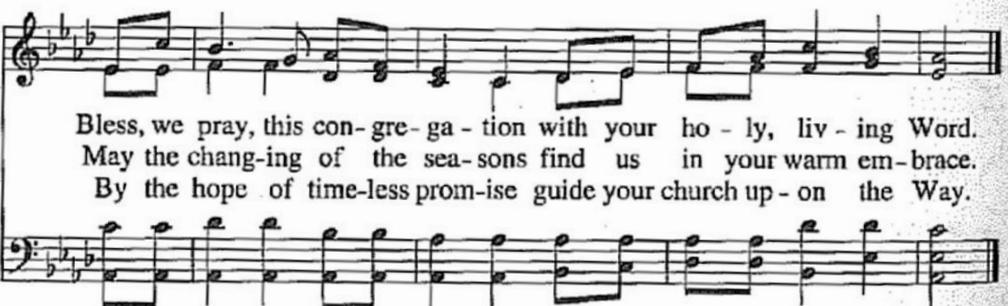
1. Like a tree be-side the wa-ters, nur-tured by your lov - ing care,
 2. Like a tree be-side the riv er, draw-ing life from ho - ly streams,
 3. We, be - side the liv-ing wa-ters, drink from your e - ter - nal life.



we, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, your en-dur-ing wit - ness bear.
 fill us with your love for - ev - er; re - cre - ate our hopes and dreams.
 Give to all, your sons and daugh-ters, faith that ris-es o - ver strife.



In each pass-ing gen - er - a - tion may your voice of love be heard.
 Through the storms of life sus-tain us by the wis-dom of your grace.
 Ev - er - liv - ing God, most glo-rious, strength-en us for life to - day.



Bless, we pray, this con-gre-ga - tion with your ho - ly, liv - ing Word.
 May the chang-ing of the sea-sons find us in your warm em-brace.
 By the hope of time-less prom-ise guide your church up - on the Way.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Rich Goode and his family as they grieve the loss of Rich's mom Doris Goode, who died last Thursday in Ayer, MA.
- We pray for Martha Williams and her family as they grieve the loss of Martha's father Wally Williams, who died last Thursday in Cambridge, MA.
- We pray for Alice Kidder, who has been in and out of the hospital in recent weeks to diagnose and treat internal bleeding.
- We pray for Kirsten Manville and her family as they mourn the loss of her cousin Tim Butler, who died suddenly.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Pauline Fennel; Amy Matias's mother Linda, Abby Shuman's uncle Barry; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Amy Golodet, Jonathan New's sister-in-law; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- We pray for all impacted by the rash of bomb threats to historically Black colleges and universities that forced at least 12 schools to close down their campuses in the first week of Black History Month.
- We pray for honest diplomacy, an end to military escalation, and a peaceful resolution to stabilize the looming international crisis in Ukraine.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19 diagnoses and for all who are awaiting vaccines, globally and locally. We continue to pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones to COVID-19 and for those experiencing symptoms of long Covid. We pray with and for anxious hearts, and especially for educators, healthcare, and other essential workers.
- When we encounter worrisome or troubling feelings in the face of the climate crisis, we pray for the courage to plant seeds of God's justice, grace, and hope. We pray for divine wisdom to help nourish these seeds, so that they may grow into holy kin-doms where all God's creation may flourish.
- We pray for the 14 men who are finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter, and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding food and listening ears. We pray for all who are experiencing deprivation and hardship in these uncertain times.

[Join the First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

IN MEMORIAM The First Church Shelter was saddened to learn of the passing of TM, a guest of the Shelter for nearly two years who had secured and enjoyed his own place for a number of months. TM had many health challenges that were hard to manage while unhoused, so having access to the Shelter while waiting for housing was greatly appreciated.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Multigenerational Formation: A Season of Image and Imagination Sundays through February 20, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

Today, [via Zoom](#)

Join us for our final session of this series. During the season of Epiphany, we are pondering word images found in scripture and in the visual art of many times and places, imagining how images might inform and even direct us, especially as we work towards becoming an anti-racist church... [Read more](#)

Zoom Coffee Hour, Today at 12:00 p.m.

Hop on the Coffee Hour [Zoom](#) immediately following the service for a time of connection, sharing of joys and concerns, and Q&A about all things First Church. Bring your own coffee or beverage of choice!



Newcomers Meet and Greet

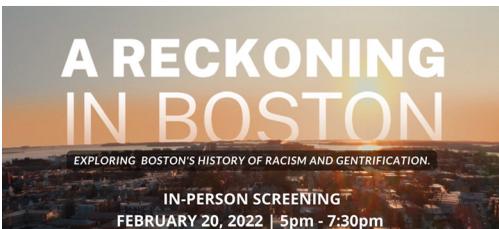
Today, 12:00 - 12:45 p.m., Hastings Common

Those feeling new to First Church or interested in meeting (in person!) someone new to our community are warmly invited to meet up directly after worship in Hastings Common (the open space between the Sanctuary side door and the Kitchen). Some of what you can expect: friendly faces smiling with their eyes atop their masks, new friends?, questions answered, snacks, and an informal atmosphere for conversation.

Welcoming Ministry Team Meeting

Today, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m., The Landing and [via Zoom](#)

A group of First Church members are meeting to think about how we practice extravagant welcome in our community, join new members in covenant, and integrate new members into our life together. If you are interested in adding your voice to the conversation, please come to our meeting, either via Zoom or gathered around the large-screen computer in the Landing. (Formerly the Choir Room, the Landing is found just above the church office.)



Young Adults: Film Screening in Dorchester

Today, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Second Church in Dorchester, 44 Moultrie St., Boston

Join the Young Adults on a field trip to view *A Reckoning in Boston*, a powerful new journey into the racial divides and their long histories in Boston. Event is free, masks required. [Click here to register for free tickets](#). You can meet us there, or contact Phil at 585-610-7919 to walk together from the Shawmut MBTA stop.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Night Song

Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

Night Song is a weekly, hour-long meditation featuring sublime choral music and transformational instrumental accompaniment in our quiet, candle-lit sanctuary. Learn more about Night Song [here](#).



Are you interested in meeting people who are new to First Church? Do you feel called to help newer folks learn the ropes and to be a point person for their questions? **Sign up to be a First Friend!**

You will become a part of a list of people who are willing to be matched with someone who fills out a [virtual visitor card](#) to help get them acquainted with our church... [Read more](#)

Young Adults: Faith on Tap Returns! Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Bow Market, Somerville

All young adults (post high school) are invited to come sip a warm beverage and share some fellowship at the fire pits outdoors in Bow Market, Somerville. It's a great way to meet other late-teen and 20-somethings, while enjoying a meal. Contact Phil with questions: 585-610-7919



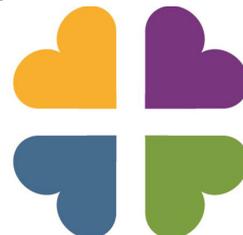
SNEUCC Super Saturday Saturday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Register [here](#) by March 13

The Southern New England Conference's Super Saturday is a day filled with a variety of virtual workshops, a marketplace, and plenty of networking. Meet other people from the UCC in the New England area, worship, and attend as many or as few workshops as you like!

The theme this spring is ***A Future With Hope: Relevant, Prophetic and Transformative***, and the keynote speaker is Rev. Sarah Drummond, Founding Dean of Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School.

[Super Saturday registration](#) is now open!

See all the workshop offerings [here](#).



LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

This Lent, join us as we explore what it means to hold Jesus at the center of our faith and lives.

- How might focusing on Jesus' life and teachings ground and clarify our conversations about how we hold the loneliness, anger, and grief of these times?
- How might focusing on *his* story help us to feel more centered, as we come through this pandemic together and as we live and shape *our* stories?



Each week, we'll offer a different scripture and related theme of daily living, along with several opportunities for weekly prayer and reflection. Themes and scriptures we'll be exploring together include:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Feb 27: | Jesus, Our Center | Introduction of our theme |
| • Mar 6: | Jesus and Solitude | Luke 4:1-11 |
| • Mar 13: | Jesus and Anger | Luke 13:31-35 |
| • Mar 20: | Jesus and Creation | Luke 13:1-9 |
| • Mar 27: | Jesus and Loss | Luke 15:1-2,11-32 |
| • Apr 3: | Jesus and Trust | John 12:1-8 |
| • Apr 10: | Jesus and Courage | Luke 19:28-40 |

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Looking Ahead to Lent Forum

Next Sunday, February 27, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

MJH and via Zoom

Lent is almost upon us! What are your plans for this upcoming season of intentional prayer, study and spiritual practice? What's a bite-sized spiritual practice of giving up, letting go, or taking on that might help to center and ground your Lenten journey? Join us for an after-worship session in which we will introduce our worship and formation plans for the Lenten season and share ideas for other individual practices we might consider.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we will gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes (a self-imposition will be offered, as well), or participate

from home via our livestream. If you plan to worship at home, you may pick up a small container of ashes in Hastings Common anytime starting Sunday, February 27.



SUNDAYS IN LENT

Contemplative Prayer

9:30 - 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Hybrid Worship

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Sanctuary & livestream

Hybrid Adult Formation: Jesus, Our Center

12:15 - 1:15 p.m., MJH and via Zoom

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

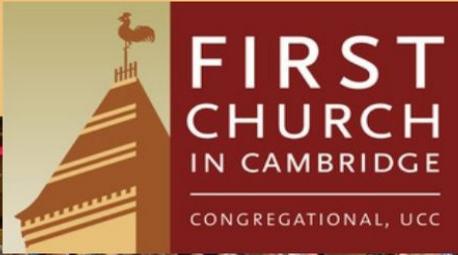
Midweek Contemplative Prayer

8:00 - 8:30 a.m., via Zoom

Midweek Small Group: Hanging out with God

5:30 - 6:15 p.m., via Zoom

Read more about [Lent at First Church](#) on our website.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, February 21 - Church Office & Building Closed for Presidents Day

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. "Telling our White Stories" Faith & Life Group, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 22

- 7:30 a.m. Space to Listen: Reflecting on the Gospel of Luke, via Zoom
- 3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace & Dying Well, via Zoom

Wednesday, February 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Call To Return 3.0, via Zoom

See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.

Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

Thursday, February 24

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Bible Study, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Team Meeting, via Zoom

Friday, February 25

- 9:30 a.m. Friday Café food dropoff, Tower Room
- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) and the church lawn

Sunday, February 27

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes for PreK - 7th grade
- 12:00 p.m. Zoom Coffee Hour
- 12:15 p.m. Looking Ahead to Lent Forum, MJH and via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC

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