

Season of Stewardship
November 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

November 20, 2022

Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*
Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Curt Nickisch, *liturgist*
Joanne Paul, *chair of the Stewardship Committee*
Chris Reynolds, *First Church clerk*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church youth*

Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Doctrine of Discovery, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes
12:00 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH and [via Zoom](#)
12:15 p.m. Executive Council, Harter Room
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Old South Church
1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class, Library
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 a visitor card found on the small clipboard in the pews or 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: 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.
For general information and inquiries: info@firstchurchcambridge.org

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

VOLUNTARY

Nun danket alle Gott

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 526

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

*GREETING

Curt Nickisch

- L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime,
welcome to this household of grace:
- C: where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God,**
L: where we grow and share together in community and belonging,
C: where we act together in love for a better world.
- L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come, gather in, and lend a hand!
C: Come, ye thankful people, come!

WORDS OF WELCOME AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ANTHEM

Psalm 67 (God of Blessing, God of Joy)

Patricia Van Ness

*God of blessing, God of joy, you shine upon us. Grace and power pour down.
Everywhere your peoples praise you!
We praise with joyful hearts. You feed us with joy and justice.
Everywhere your peoples praise you!
At your touch the Earth leaves goodness: gifts of plenty.
Everywhere your peoples praise you!*

CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray:
- All: Holy and beloved God, we give you thanks for this day,
for cycles of discernment and celebration, of giving and receiving.
You know our anxieties and fears, God.
You know when we hold back our love, and when we withdraw from yours.
Lead us God, to give and receive, freely and without fear.
In this season of harvest and thanksgiving,
help us trust that there will always be plenty, (cont'd. on next page)**

**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.*

so that our connection with you is deepened
and our relationships strengthened,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 454

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Acts 2:42-47 *(The Message)*

SERMON

Dan Smith

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lexi Boudreaux

CALL TO FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Chris Reynolds

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Carla Carbajal

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 GIVE AND PLEDGE

You are invited to come forward to place your offering for this week, along with your 2023 stewardship cards, in any basket on the table.

OFFERTORY

Jesus Christ, The Apple Tree Elizabeth Poston, arr. P. Sykes

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the Apple Tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil - here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the Apple Tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.*

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS & 2023 PLEDGES**

Karen McArthur

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 461**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Thuma Mina

Hymn 344

1. (Send me, Lord.)

**Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,
send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.**

2. (Lead me, Lord.) **Lead me, Jesus...**

3. (Fill me, Lord.) **Fill me, Jesus...**

4. (Thuma mina.) **Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina, somandla.**

VOLUNTARY

Nun danket alle Gott

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come 526

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, all the stores the gar-dens yield,
 3. These to thee, our God, we owe, source from whom all bless-ings flow;

all is safe-ly gath-ered in, ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 all the fruits in full sup-ply, rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky,
 and for these our souls shall raise grate-ful vows and sol-lemn praise.

God, our Mak-er, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 all that spring with boun-teous hand scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land,
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home;

come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 all that lib-eral au-tumn pours from its rich o'er-flow-ing stores,
 come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.

PEACE HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 454

1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store,
 2. Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on earth be done:
 3. Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your grace con - ferred;
 4. Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our pil - grim way;

na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door:
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel Word.
 from the night of anx - ious keep - ing, lead us in - to gen - erous day.

gift - ed by you, we turn to you of - fering up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive a - lone in vain;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing as we heed Christ's age - less call,
 Then when years on earth are o - ver, and we've lived our hu - man span,

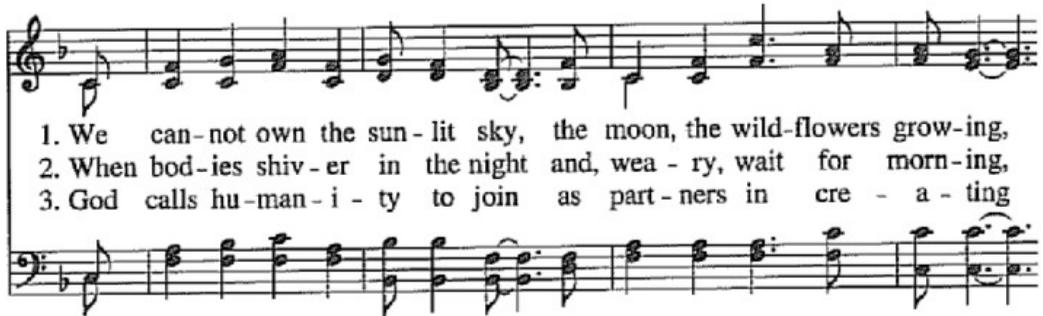
thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 use our tal - ents, guide our ser - vice that our work your love pro - claim.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.
 God, ful - fill be - yond our dream - ing, all our lov - ing work be - gan.

WORDS: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC. 1997

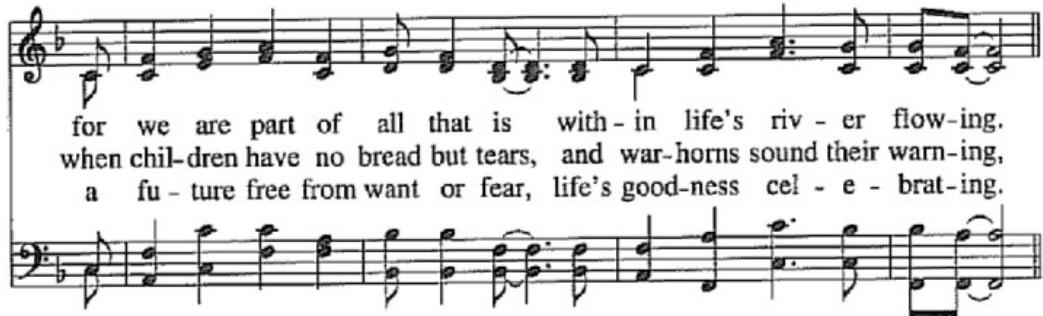
BEACH SPRING
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461

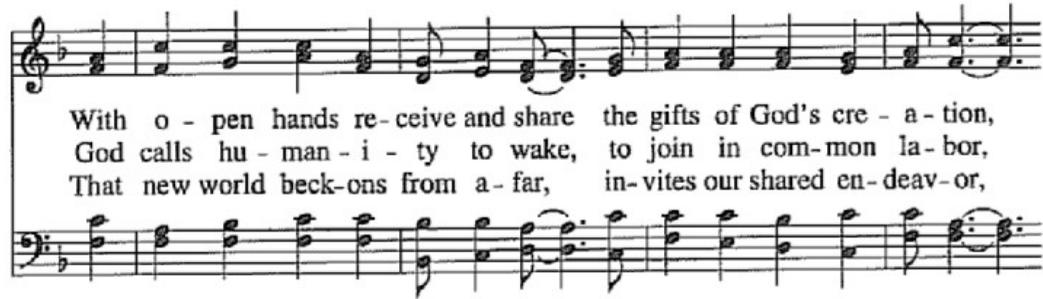
We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky



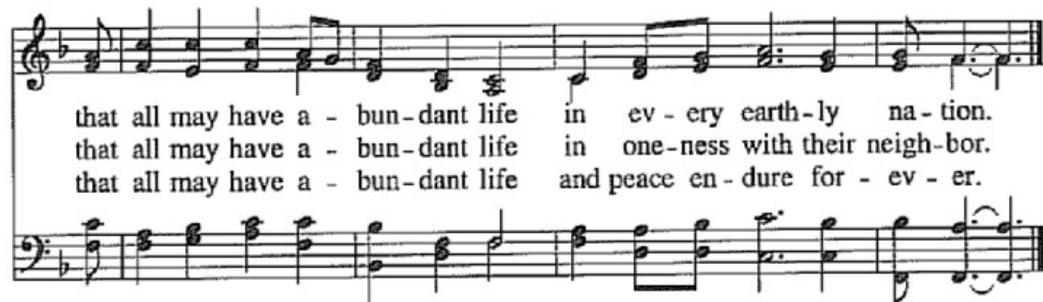
1. We can-not own the sun-lit sky, the moon, the wild-flowers grow-ing,
 2. When bod-ies shiv-er in the night and, wea-ry, wait for morn-ing,
 3. God calls hu-man-i-ty to join as part-ners in cre-a-ting



for we are part of all that is with-in life's riv-er flow-ing.
 when chil-dren have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warn-ing,
 a fu-ture free from want or fear, life's good-ness cel-e-brat-ing.



With o-pen hands re-ceive and share the gifts of God's cre-a-tion,
 God calls hu-man-i-ty to wake, to join in com-mon la-bor,
 That new world beck-ons from a-far, in-vites our shared en-deav-or,



that all may have a-bun-dant life in ev-ery earth-ly na-tion.
 that all may have a-bun-dant life in one-ness with their neigh-bor.
 that all may have a-bun-dant life and peace en-dure for-ev-er.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Facilities Manager Lee Prouty's partner Phil, who is recovering from recent surgery and awaiting next steps for treatment.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Robin Williams, Kimel Williams's wife; Lyman Morrill, Ann Riker's brother; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Penny Kilburn, Nancy Kilburn's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet, and her sons-in-law, Denis Collet and Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; and friend of Homeless Ministries Brian O'Donovan.
- We give thanks for strong voter turnout in our mid-term elections, for the protection of voting rights, for largely uncontested results, and for the endurance of our democracy in the face of political polarization, vitriol, and violence.
- On this Transgender Day of Remembrance 2022, we honor the memory of transgender people whose lives have been cut short in acts of transphobic violence.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression is on the rise in local communities, and as antisemitic rhetoric espoused by public figures continues to appear in social media.
- We pray for all those impacted by gun violence, and especially the community at the University of Virginia, the site of yet another school shooting, where three people died and others were injured.
- We pray for the people of Haiti, where water, food, and fuel shortages are leading to widespread protests, violence, and civil unrest.
- We pray for the people of Iran, especially women, as anti-government protests continue.
- We pray for the people of Pakistan, where recent devastating flooding has led to widespread loss of housing, food, and safe living conditions.
- We pray for those experiencing the loss of vital reproductive rights across the nation, and all those who care about them. We pray for our country in the lasting wake of changing reproductive rights: for all those struggling through the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for the integrity of our legal and judicial institutions at a time of extreme political polarization.
- We pray for the people of Ukraine and stand in hope and solidarity as they continue to resist unjust and unlawful Russian invasions and retake occupied regions, even in the face of escalating violence. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia and surrounding areas, and all global regions impacted by the violence of war.
- We pray for the 2022 United Nations Climate Conference (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, and for the divine wisdom and leadership needed to ensure that global reparation efforts distribute power equitably and protect the most vulnerable.
- We pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Adult Formation: The Doctrine of Discovery

Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Join us for the second session of our two-part series on the Doctrine of Discovery. In this session, we'll talk religion. How might our theology blind us to American Indian spiritual identity? The Promised Land: promised to whom by whom? How can the church support a new sense of God's mission among American Indian Christians? We'll view a video prepared by the Episcopal church, which was the first denomination to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.



First Church Land Acknowledgment

We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, 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 to the left.



Coffee Hour, MJH and [via Zoom](#)

Today at 12:00 p.m.

Join us in person or online for social connection and conversation.



Executive Council Meeting, Today at 12:15 p.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Church leaders meet after worship today to discuss their recommendation for the 2023 budget, to be reviewed and voted on by the congregation at our Fall Congregational meeting on December 4. Check the [Church Finances](#) page of our website as of Monday for the proposed 2023 budget.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th Graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Old South Church, Boston

AND

Confirmation Class for 9/10th Graders

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Library



Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

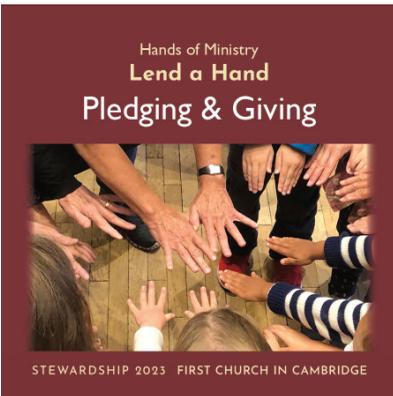
Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset. [Read more about Night Song.](#)

STEWARDSHIP AT FIRST CHURCH

Today is our Pledge Dedication Sunday!

Sharing your intentions in this way allows us to make faithful and prudent financial decisions. You may amend your pledge at any time if your situation changes.

- Return your pledge card today during the offertory
- [Pledge online](#)
- Email bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org to ask that a pledge card be mailed to you
- Email karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org with your pledge



Call To Fall Congregational Meeting

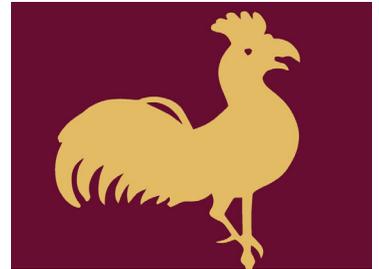
Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 386th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, December 4, 2022, in person in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom, for the following purpose:

1. To review and vote on the proposed 2023 annual budget of the Congregation as recommended by Executive Council.

No other business may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of Executive Council,
Christine Reynolds, *clerk*

Check the [Church Finances](#) page of our website as of Monday for the proposed 2023 budget.



Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?

Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code to the right marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Consider some of our most well-known and treasured Advent and Christmas scriptures:

Behold, a star...

Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son...

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy...

Behold is a biblical way of arresting our attention, often with energetic and joyful anticipation! In essence, and often through the voices of divine messengers, it enthusiastically proclaims: “Look! “Watch!,” or “Wait for it...!”

Indeed, behold! This simple invitation is a gift in a world cast down with increasing anxiety and foreboding.

When we open and give ourselves to wonder, amidst it all, we leave room for God to enter in—to surprise us, to blow our minds with breathtaking views of our galaxy, to melt our hearts with awe and delight at a newborn child. This season, let’s embrace this invitation together. Let’s take time to pause amidst the busyness, to look up and look in, and to behold!

Behold, for God is always doing a new thing! In worship and in community, let’s look, watch, and wait for it together!



Advent Workshop Returns to Margaret Jewett Hall!

Sunday, November 27, 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.

After two years of remote crafting, First Church’s beloved Advent Workshop returns to Margaret Jewett Hall! On the first Sunday of Advent, plan to join us after worship for a variety of arts and craft activities to prepare for season. Bring your Advent candle ring to decorate with greens (new candle rings and candles will be available until we run out). Choose among a half dozen other crafts, including beeswax candle-dipping, ornament-making, and more. Enjoy a bagel-and-cider lunch as you take in the creative energy around you. All are welcome! And volunteers are needed! If you would like to lead a simple craft at the workshop—no experience necessary; instruction and supplies provided—please contact [Sarah Higginbotham](#) to learn more.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Behold:

**Advent Reflection on the Psalms
Sundays, December 4, 11 & 18,
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.**

Harter Room and via Zoom

First Church artist Audrey Bellinger,
Dan Smith and Lexi Boudreaux lead a

time of quiet conversation and contemplation of themes and images inspired by the Psalms and Advent readings. Join us as we open our hearts to a spiritual practice of wondering about, waiting for, and perhaps even expecting glad tidings of the new things God has in store, this season and every day.



**Women's Community Advent Dinner
Saturday, December 10, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
The Home of Alex Steinert-Evoy**

The women of First Church will gather together for a time of reflection and fellowship during a simple meal to observe the Advent season. All women and non-binary folks who are comfortable with spaces that center the experiences of women are welcome to join! Come as you are to take time out of your busy week for rest, reflection, and deepening relationships as a community of faith in this season of wonder and expectation. A simple meal of soup and bread will be provided to supplement a potluck of

sides, drinks, and desserts. To let us know if you plan on coming and to indicate what you might bring to the potluck, please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/gaB7Fsoqj8MfVpGE6>

**The Alternative Christmas Fair Is Back!
Sunday, December 11, 12:15 - 2:00 p.m.
Margaret Jewett Hall**

After two long years, First Church is excited to once again host the annual Alternative Christmas Fair! What makes it "alternative?" All proceeds raised by the vendors will go directly to benefit their charitable and social justice causes. Our growing list of vendors includes: Muddy River Herbals, Solutions at Work, Friday Café, and Sowing Opportunities. Come buy presents for your loved ones, and support worthy causes! Hope to see you there!



LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT



Donate to City Mission Christmas Shop & Coat Boston

Sunday, December 11

As is our tradition, First Church will collect gifts for City Mission's Christmas Shop and Coat Boston this Advent season. Find a list of requested gifts on the [City Mission website](#). Coat Boston is asking for unused winter coats for all children, from toddlers to teens. If you would like to participate, but are not able to bring donations to our worship service on Sunday morning, December 11, please contact [Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan](#) to make a plan.



The Missions & Social Justice Committee has had another eventful year of supporting the work of non-profits both near and far. As we approach the Advent season, we wanted to share with you a list of organizations with which First Church partners closely and who are seeking donations.

In the case that you and your family are in a position to support any of these organizations, we hope that you find the list helpful. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jaz Buchanan at jaz@firstchurchcambridge.org, staff liaison to the Missions & Social Justice Committee.

[See the full list of organizations on our website.](#)



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, November 21

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, via Zoom
- 8:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Charlie's Kitchen, Harvard Square

Tuesday, November 22

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 11:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Faithfully (and Queerfully) Reading Scripture, via Zoom

Wednesday, November 23

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

Thursday, November 24 - Church Office and Building Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 25 - Church Office and Building Closed

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH and Lawn

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, MJH
- 10:15 a.m. Coffee and Conversation, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Lexi Boudreaux, preaching, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour in Hastings Common
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Workshop, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

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