



*From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of God is to be praised.*

Psalm 113:3

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Annual Meeting Sunday  
January 29, 2023

**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.

**January 29, 2023**

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
**387 YEARS**  
ON THE WAY  
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 3

### Preaching Today Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*  
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*  
Ahmaad Edmund, *Ministerial Intern*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Perry Neubauer, *liturgist*  
Beth Spaulding, *Deacon*  
Phil Jones and Casey Marsh, *for GBIO Core Team*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

### Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 113 Collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in Margaret Jewett Hall and in a [digital gallery](#) on our website.*

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m. New Year, New Connections, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)  
10:00 a.m. New Members' Gathering, Hastings Common  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Project, MJH  
12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Hastings Common  
12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting and Luncheon, MJH and [via Zoom](#)  
1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Harter Room  
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](http://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](mailto: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

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

Dietrich Buxtehude

### \*HYMN

We Who Are Now Brought Together

(see pg. 4)

### \*GREETING

Perry Neubauer

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

**C: Come, one and all, across screens and devices, across time and space.**

L: Here, gathered together, may God's glory embolden us with strength and courage.

**C: Here, may God's glory light the path towards healing and justice.**

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

**C: as we glorify God and all of her holy mysteries and revelations.**

### WORDS OF WELCOME

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Karen McArthur

### ANTHEM

Locus iste

Anton Bruckner

*Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.*

This place was made by God,  
a priceless sacrament;  
it is without reproach.

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### 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,**

**as we journey through holy darkness with you,  
discovering your light in unexpected corners,**

**illuminating justice, righteousness, and peace. Amen.**

*\*You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

## **DECLARATION OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**

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

**C: And also with you!**

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

## **\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*We invite you to greet each other with a hug or handshake. If you prefer to maintain social distance, please put your hands together or fold your arms to share the peace.*

## **\*HYMN C-28**

**God’s Forgiveness Waits**

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Creative Arts Workshop in Margaret Jewett Hall. Caregivers can find the children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

## **JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS IN COVENANT**

### **INVITATION**

Lexi Boudreaux

### **ADDRESS AND PROMISES**

### **ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS**

Beth Spaulding

## **\*COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE**

**All: We who are now brought together and united into one Church  
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head,  
in such sort as becometh all those  
whom he hath redeemed and sanctified to himself,  
do solemnly and religiously, as in his most holy presence,  
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all our ways  
according to the rule of the Gospel,  
and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,  
and in mutual love and respect each to other,  
so near as God shall give us grace.**

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Dan Smith

## **OPENING THE WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Carla Carbajal

### **READING**

Matthew 5:1-12

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MINISTRY MOMENT

Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) Core Team

## PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Ahmaad Edmund

## 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

## OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found; was bound, but now I'm free!  
 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved,  
 How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!  
 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
 'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
 We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.*

## \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,  
 To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
 To God, the Spirit, now we raise  
 Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

## \*HYMN C-20

The Household of God

## \*BENEDICTION

## VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

Jacques Lemmens

# OPENING HYMN

## *We who are now brought together*

Mary Luti

Peter Sykes

We who are now brought to - geth - er, e - ven we,  
We who are now brought to - geth - er, Spi - rit - led,  
We who are now joined to - geth - er in God's sight  
We who are now joined to - geth - er in all ways

drawn by the love of our Sa - vior, ev - en he,  
called and made ho - ly by Je - sus, hum - ble Head,  
so near as grace may be giv - en day and night,  
of - fer to you, O Cre - a - tor, praise on praise

pro - mise to walk on his path - way, faith - ful, free.  
pro - mise to live by the gos - pel, as he said.  
pro - mise to love one an - oth - er, God's de - light.  
grate - ful - ly: one con - gre - ga - tion, all our days.

PEACE HYMN

C-28

God's Forgiveness Waits

God's for-give-ness waits, pa-tient as God a-lone, work-ing up-on the

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "God's for-give-ness waits, pa-tient as God a-lone, work-ing up-on the".

hu-man heart like wa-ter drip-ping on a stone; like

The second system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "hu-man heart like wa-ter drip-ping on a stone; like". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and moving lines.

wa-ter on a stone, wear-ing the stone a-way, God's mer-cy calls un-

The third system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "wa-ter on a stone, wear-ing the stone a-way, God's mer-cy calls un-".

to it-self the hard-ened heart that can-not pray. The

The fourth and final system of musical notation on this page. The vocal line concludes with the lyrics: "to it-self the hard-ened heart that can-not pray. The".

*cont'd. on next page*

# PEACE HYMN, cont'd.

heart that can-not pray will some-day praise God's name with ev-ery voice on

earth un-til the stones them-selves God's grace pro - claim. Praise

God! the time-less one, for God's for-give-ness waits, e - ter-nal, ten-der,

age-less, true, to save the world that God cre - ates.

WORDS: Kate Layzer

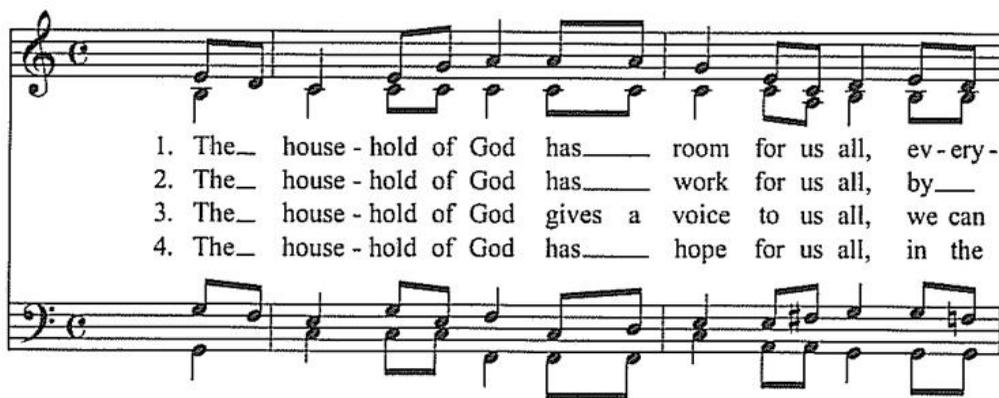
MUSIC: Peter Sykes

The images in this hymn come from a sermon given by Allen Happe

CLOSING HYMN

C-20

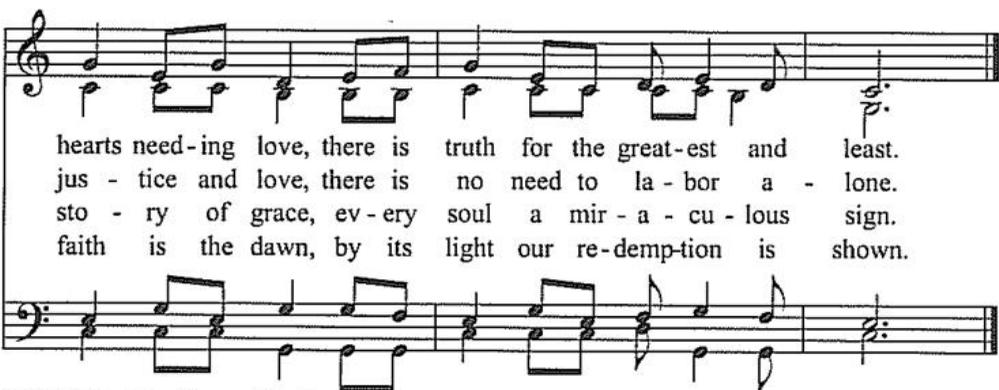
The Household of God



1. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ room for us all, ev - ery -  
2. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ work for us all, by\_\_\_  
3. The\_ house - hold of God gives a voice to us all, we can  
4. The\_ house - hold of God has\_\_\_ hope for us all, in the



one has a place at the feast, the\_\_\_ best and the worst have\_\_\_  
man - y have seeds been\_\_\_ sown, in the har - vest of heal - ing, of  
sing in a cho - rus di - vine, we can hear ev - ery life as a  
dark - ness a hand holds our own, as we walk by that guid - ance our

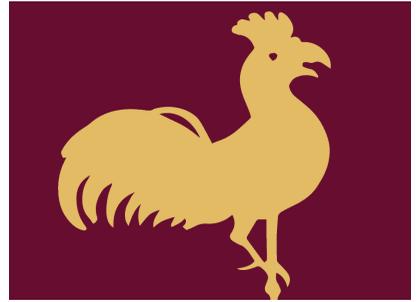


hearts need - ing love, there is truth for the great - est and least.  
jus - tice and love, there is no need to la - bor a - lone.  
sto - ry of grace, ev - ery soul a mir - a - cu - lous sign.  
faith is the dawn, by its light our re - demp - tion is shown.

WORDS: John Evans-Klock

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

## ANNUAL MEETING



### Call to Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ, will be held in its 387th year at 12:30 p.m., Sunday the 29th of January, 2023, in person in Margaret Jewett Hall and via Zoom conference:

1. To approve the minutes of Congregational Meetings held in 2022;
2. To receive and act upon the 2022 reports of the Staff, Officers, Executive Council, Boards, Committees, Teams, and Groups of the Church;
3. To receive a financial update for 2022 and 2023;
4. To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

By direction of the Executive Council,

Chris Reynolds, Clerk  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
January 15, 2023

***You can find the [2022 Annual Report](#) and the [2022 Financial Report](#) on our website. There will be a limited number of paper copies available at the meeting.***

### 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.



## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Larry Evans and his family as they grieve the loss of his wife, long-time member Bev Evans, who died recently following a long struggle with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for Barb Hume as she recovers from scheduled foot surgery.
- We pray for Hilary Hopkins as she continues to receive treatment for cardiac issues and prepares for a major heart procedure this Wednesday.
- We celebrate with Marc and Sally O'Brien upon the birth of their grandson Arden Obraar, born to Stephanie O'Brien and Matt Schaar, on December 31, 2022.
- We pray for loved ones of John J. Williams III, a First Church Shelter guest who died recently, and we pray for Shelter staff and guests who are grieving.
- We pray for Friday Café volunteer Arnie Bearak, his wife Adena, and their family as they grieve the death of their son Jordan.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Anita Anger; Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; 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 pray for the family of Sayed Arif Faisal, a 20-year-old Cambridge resident who was killed by Cambridge Police on January 4, and for all affected by police violence, and for the entire Cambridge community as it holds this tragedy in different ways.
- We pray for all affected by gun violence and by mass shootings that occur with too much frequency in our country. We pray especially for the families and loved ones of those killed or injured in recent incidents in Monterey Park, CA; Baton Rouge, LA; Shreveport, LA; and Half Moon Bay, CA.
- We pray for our Jewish siblings as antisemitic expression continues to appear with alarming frequency in our communities and around our nation.
- We pray for people around the world facing natural disasters and intense weather due to the climate crisis. We pray especially for those in northern California, where they've experienced record rainfall this month.
- We pray for the people of Iran, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Peru, where anti-government protests have led to violence.
- We pray for our country and for those most affected by changes in 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. We pray for all soldiers and civilians in Ukraine, Russia, and surrounding areas, as well as all global regions impacted by the violence of war.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We continue to pray for all who are affected by COVID-19, and we pray for healthcare professionals as they navigate caring for children and the elderly through a winter season with heavy rates of RSV and the flu, in addition to increasing cases of 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.

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



### In Memoriam

A memorial service for longtime First Church member Beverly Evans will take place on Sunday, February 5, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow. Bev died on Thursday, January 12, 2023, following a struggle with Alzheimer's.

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Ginny Harlan** was a life-long Episcopalian, but decided that its approach to Christianity no longer worked for her. After considerable thought, prayer, and zooming around, she found First Church, and it felt like a fit! She is a mother of five, grandmother to eleven, and a great-grandmother as well. Married to a naval officer for many years, Ginny lived in a multitude of locations, including Japan. She returned to Boston in the '80s and lived in Watertown for 30 years before moving to a retirement community in Cambridge. Ginny earned her Master's in Social Work at age 49 and worked as a therapist with children. She is very happy to be a part of First Church.

**Duncan Hollomon** has been a part of the First Church community for several years and is pleased to formalize his connection through membership. His professional life has included performing arts, law/policy, and, for the last 30 years, psychotherapy, along with teaching and consultation. Duncan has lived all over the US, including Seattle for 17 years, where he had his psychotherapy practice on a 1929 wooden boat. He returned to New England (where he was raised) 4 years ago, living in Cambridge for 3 years before moving to Gloucester. Duncan's spiritual life has focused on Buddhism and Christianity, with a practice of mindfulness meditation for many years. Duncan hosts First Church's ongoing gathering for shared contemplative practice on Monday afternoons via Zoom; all are welcome to join!

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### New Year, New Connections

Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Are you entering the new year with a desire to get to know more people in the First Church community in a lighthearted and no-pressure way? Join us for a movement-based 9:30 Formation Hour in MJH that will help you get to know your neighbor! All ages and abilities are most welcome!



### Today is a Joining Sunday

We are pleased to welcome new members into the covenant of First Church in Cambridge today! Membership at First Church involves joining the church through covenantal promises. In addition to engaging in the life and ministries of the church, members are given the opportunity to vote at congregational meetings. If you are new to First Church and would like to learn more about membership, check out the [“What is Membership?”](#) page on our website.



### Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall and [via Zoom](#)

Come, one and all, to the 388th Annual Meeting of First Church in Cambridge following Hybrid Morning Worship. A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting, where we will celebrate another very full year of ministry. We will thank one another for gifts shared and celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders. We will also receive a financial update. Join us for this centuries-old tradition of meeting, prayer, and song!



You can find the [2022 Annual Report](#) and the [2022 Financial Report](#) on our website. There will be a limited number of paper copies available at the meeting.

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

Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Harter Room

7th and 8th graders meet for OWL, a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum produced by the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association.



## EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



### 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.](#)

### Collage Exhibit: *Reflecting on the Psalms*

January - February, Margaret Jewett Hall

This Epiphany season, please come and behold *Reflecting on the Psalms*, an exhibit of 150 collages created by First Church artist Audrey Bellinger. Audrey joined our “Praying the Psalms” group led by Brent Coffin wherein participants were invited to enter into a spiritual practice of reading one psalm a day and then meeting weekly for small group discussion. *Reflecting on the Psalms* is Audrey’s response to these invitations. Her collages became a spiritual practice, and they now invite us to wonder anew at each psalm and, perhaps, to take on our own practice of daily reading. In addition to being on display through the end of February, the collages are available in [a digital gallery](#) on our website, along with some simple prompts for how you might engage with the psalms and the artwork.



*Scan the QR code to see the digital gallery.*

### New Year, New Way to Contact You?

As we turn the calendar to a new year, First Church seeks to update our membership database with new information about YOU, including updated contact info like a new email address, phone number, or physical address. On Tuesday, January 24, all those in our database should have received an email from First Church providing you with the information we have for you on file. The message included instructions for accessing our online directory, where you can make changes to your profile and see your giving history to First Church. If you did not receive the email on Tuesday, please contact [Admin Assistant Bruce Dillenbeck](#) to provide your info for our database. We sincerely appreciate your help in keeping our records in order!



## EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

a monthly gathering  
for sharing our stories and reflections



### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, February 4, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room**

All who identify as men at First Church are invited to join us in person on Saturday morning for our monthly gathering, a time to reflect and rejoice. If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: [p.byerly@comcast.net](mailto:p.byerly@comcast.net)

### GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In

**Sunday, February 5, 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

This past Fall, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) adopted a multi-faceted, statewide Housing Justice Campaign focused on public housing, affordable rental and homeownership opportunity, and housing access. We define Housing Justice as the ability for all people to have safe, healthy, and clean places to live in their communities. We are seeking to improve housing access and quality for groups that have been unfairly denied it and to support financing, zoning, and ownership policies that help to close racial and class disparities in the housing market. Join members of First Church's GBIO Core Team after worship on February 5 for a GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In, where we will learn more about how we and members of our community are affected by our region's housing crisis, and learn more about how we can support GBIO's work. A light lunch will be provided.



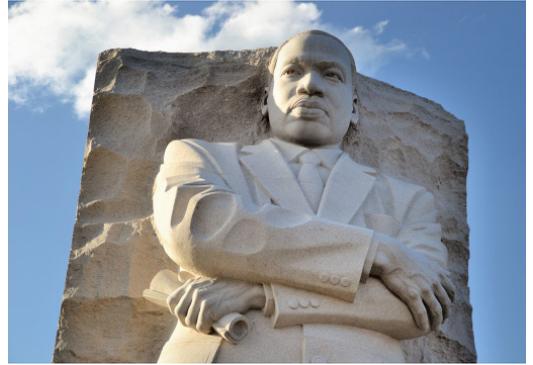
### Food Pantry Transition Plan: A Call for a Volunteer

We are very grateful to Hilary Hopkins for her longtime dedication to coordinating First Church's donations to the Helping Hands Food Pantry at St. James Church in Porter Square. For now, please refrain from dropping items at 30 Winslow Street; we are seeking a new coordinator and drop-off location. If you are interested in being our new Food Pantry Coordinator, please contact [Dan Smith](#). Donations can still be brought to First Church next Sunday, February 5.

## EPIPHANY SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

### Poems and Meditations from January 15 MLK Service

On Sunday, January 15, 2023, First Church Poet-in-Residence and Deacon Jean Dany Joachim convened several of his fellow writer friends to share poems and reflections in response to the prompt: What would Martin Luther King's words be about the state of the world today? [Here](#) is a collection of their responses, along with links to author's websites when available. Please consider supporting their work through a donation or book purchase, as you are moved and able.



### Adult Formation: The Life of Harriet A. Jacobs

**Sundays, February 12 & 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room & via Zoom**

Join Ministerial Interns Carla Arevalo Carbajal and Ahmaad Edmund for a new series about the life of Harriet A. Jacobs, an African American woman enslaved in the U.S. who harnessed her spiritual power to navigate her way to freedom. The series aims to provide participants with a closer connection to the divine power found in unlikely circumstances. Antiracism and healing work is not an easy or simple journey; Romans 8:22-25 gives us a language where “the labor pains” of creation can reflect the labor pains experienced in social justice and healing. Harriet will become a guiding force that will

encourage and teach us how, in our labor pains, to push for new life and healing. Stay tuned for a Faith & Life Group offering on Harriet Jacobs following in Lent.

**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.

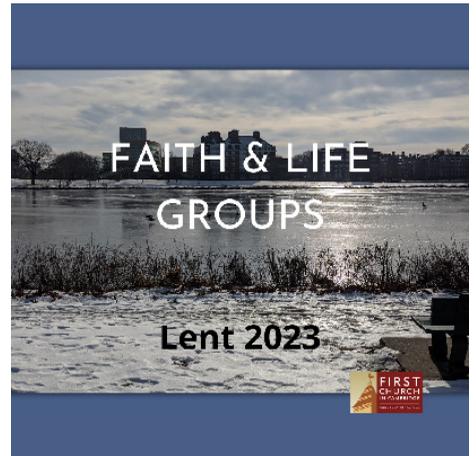


## LOOKING AHEAD

### Call for Lenten Faith & Life Group Leaders by February 8

Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person during the Lenten season? 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, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group). [Contact Lexi Boudreaux](#) to discuss your idea for leading a Faith & Life Group.

**Deadline for proposals is Wednesday, February 8.**



### Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

**Tuesday, February 21, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.,  
Margaret Jewett Hall**

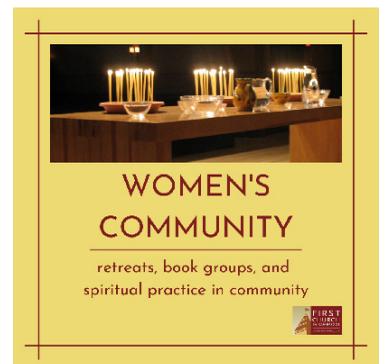
All are warmly invited to the return of our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras! Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. The children will decorate our “Alleluia” banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. We’ll also hear a

preview of our Lenten programs and formation opportunities. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to [Sarah Higginbotham](#) so she can plan the pancake production.

### Women’s Book Group

**Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

The New Year and January brought a great discussion of *Hamnet*, and we are looking forward to our next gathering for which we will be reading [The Personal Librarian](#) by Heather Terrell and Victoria Christopher Murray. “*The Personal Librarian* is a fictionalized telling of the lifework of Belle da Costa Greene, the personal librarian to J. P. Morgan, as well as the first director of the Morgan Library & Museum.” Next month’s book will be Lauren Groff’s [Matrix](#). Please join us, we’d love to have you!



## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Cambridge NAACP MLK Brunch

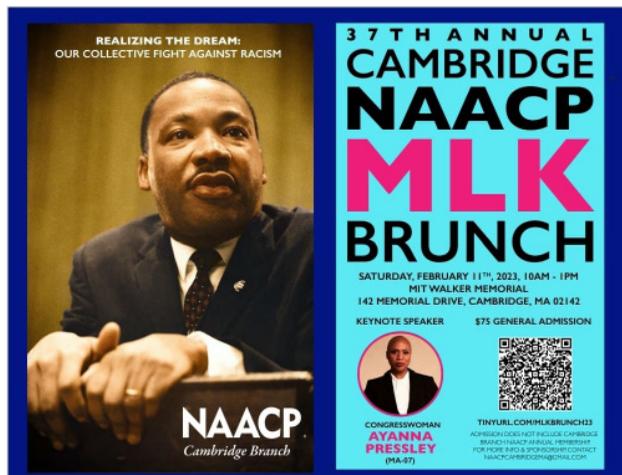
Saturday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MIT Walker Memorial

142 Memorial Drive, Cambridge

First Church members and friends are warmly invited to the Cambridge NAACP's 37th Annual MLK Brunch. This year's theme is ***Realizing the Dream: Our Collective Fight Against Racism.***

The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, and our own Senior Minister Rev. Dan Smith will receive the Drum Major for Justice Award.



You may attend in person or online. [Please register here.](#) Tickets are \$75. Scholarships are available; if you need assistance, please email: [operations@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:operations@firstchurchcambridge.org)



### International Choral and Arts Festival

A Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Marsh Chapel, Boston University

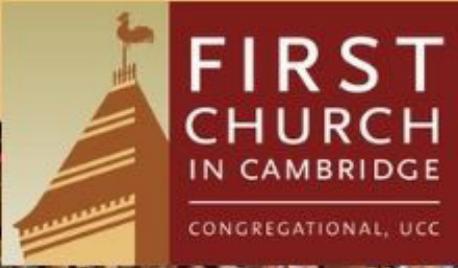
735 Commonwealth Ave., Boston

Join Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries as we bring together powerful voices of international and local choirs, dancers, spoken word artists, and others for an unforgettable evening: ***Reclaiming Communities of Peace through Praise.*** Hosted in partnership with the Boston Theological Interreligious Consortium, this event has a mesmerizing line-up of international praise and worship performances.

Gun violence has erupted in the City of Boston, erasing promising teen lives and countless others. These acts have called for community action. CMM provides anti-violence training to inner city youth, a “must” in these trying times. It also rehabs homes for low-income families to bring properties up to code. Your support is vital and very much appreciated!

If you cannot join us, please consider purchasing a sponsorship/ad for your business, organization, committee, or foundation, and donate to our cause. Help us carry the message to those who need it the most and let us carry it together in solidarity. “We denounce violence of any kind” is our resounding message. Show up for our slain Black fathers, brothers, and sons of Boston.

[Purchase tickets and/or sponsor the event here.](#)



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, January 30

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Deacons' Transition Dinner, Parsonage

## Tuesday, January 31

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom

## Wednesday, February 1

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

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

## Thursday, February 2

- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom

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

## Friday, February 3

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

## Saturday, February 4

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

## Sunday, February 5

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH
- 12:15 p.m. GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Teach-In, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Sage Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders, Harter Room
- 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Beverley Evans, Sanctuary
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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