



*Weeping may linger for the night,  
but joy comes with the morning.*

Psalm 30:5

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Lent  
March 5, 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.

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

### March 5, 2023

#### Preaching Today Leading Worship

Lexi Boudreaux, *Transitional Minister*  
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*  
Kate Layzer, *Minister of Street Outreach*  
Carla Carbajal, *Ministerial Intern*  
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*  
Audrey Bellinger, *Deacon*  
Lee Prouty, *tech support*

#### Bulletin Cover Image

Psalm 30 collage by Audrey Bellinger  
*This and other Psalm collages can be viewed in a [digital gallery](#).*

#### Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: *This Here Flesh* Lenten Series, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing, Hastings Common
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Honoring our Longtime Members Panel, MJH
- 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
- 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

Cantabile

César Franck

\*HYMN 314

As We Gather at Your Table

\*GREETING

Audrey Bellinger

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings, come, you who thirst for contemplation and courage.

**C Come, you who long for justice and joy!**

L: Beloved, come: you who yearn for a deeper life and a fairer world.

**C: Come and find rest and healing,  
find grace and grounding, in the Spirit's truth and love:**

L: in a truth that sets us free, in a love as wide as the sea!

**C: Come now, draw near to God with thanks and praise!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Kyrie

Charles Gounod

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Teach Me Your Way, O God

from Psalm 86; Layzer/Sykes

*The Choir will sing through once; please join them on the second time through.*

Teach me your way, O God, guide my steps in your truth, make  
5 whole my heart by your steadfast love, that my life may declare your praise.

*\*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

### \*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 323

Lo, I Am with You

*Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

### READING

John 3:1-17

### SERMON

Lexi Boudreaux

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Carbajal

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

O Salutaris Hostia

Gounod

*O salutaris Hostia,  
Quae caeli pandis ostium:  
Bella premunt hostilia,  
Da robur, fer auxilium.*

*O saving Offering, opening wide  
the gate of Heaven to us below:  
our foes press hard on every side;  
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.*

### \*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine  
Demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen.**

## SHARING THE FEAST

### \*INVITATION

Kate Layzer

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

## REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Dan Smith

L: Now, O God, we fall silent...and remember Jesus,  
the one who came because words were not enough.

*(Silence)*

L: We remember that he called us friends.

**C: He told us everything you placed in his heart.**

L: We remember that he gave us peace,

**C: a peace nothing else can give.**

L: We remember that he did not leave us bereft.

**C: He sent us a Helper—the Spirit who dwells in our hearts!**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

L: Come, Holy Spirit.

By this bread, connect us more closely with you  
and with our neighbors near and far.

**All: Bless this bread, we pray.**

L: May this fruit of the vine remind us of the interconnectedness  
of people around the world.

**All: Bless this cup, we pray.**

L: May this simple meal enlighten the eyes of our hearts  
and bring us into union with you, your people and your world  
united in the Body of Christ as one.

We do this in the name of Jesus, our friend and companion,  
who taught us to pray:

### 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.**

### \*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of justice, compassion, and love are invited to partake of this feast. If you are joining us from home please take now and eat; or if you are in the sanctuary, please approach one of the stations to receive the elements. You may leave your empty bread cup and juice glass on the tray before returning to your pew.*

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, for the gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the gifts of this holy communion —  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### \*HYMN 1

We Limit Not the Truth of God

### \*BENEDICTION

### VOLUNTARY

Allegro maestoso

César Franck



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### 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.

OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table

314

1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.  
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1989  
 MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. FCC, 1997

BEACH SPRING  
 87.87D

PEACE HYMN

323

Lo, I Am with You

*Unison*

1. Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.  
2. Lo, I am with you in the break - ing of bread.  
3. Lo, I am with you in the drink - ing of wine.

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.  
Lo, I am with you in the break - ing of bread.  
Lo, I am with you in the drink - ing of wine.

Lo, I am with you,                      Lo, I am with you,  
Lo, I am with you,                      Lo, I am with you,  
Lo, I am with you,                      Lo, I am with you,

Lo, I am with you to the end of the world.  
Lo, I am with you in the break - ing of bread.  
Lo, I am with you in the drink - ing of wine.

# CLOSING HYMN

## We Limit Not the Truth of God

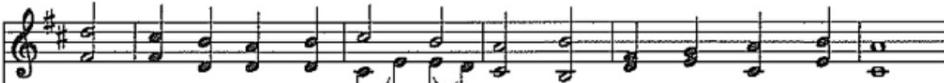
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1. We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,  
 2. Dark-ling those faith - ful pil-grims went the first steps of the way;  
 3. The val-leys passed, as - cend-ing still, our souls would high-er climb,  
 4. O God, we pray that thou wilt send us in - crease from a - bove;




by no - tions of our day and sect, crude, par - tial, and con - fined.  
 'twas but the dawn-ing yet to grow in - to the per - fect day.  
 and look down from su - per - nal heights on all the by - gone time.  
 en - large, ex - pand all Chris-tian souls to com-pre-hend thy love,

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:  
 And grow it shall, our glo - rious sun more fer - vid rays af - ford:  
 Up - ward we press, the air is clear, and the sphere-mu - sic heard:  
 and make us to go on, to know with no - bler powers con - ferred:




The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from The Word.



WORDS: George Rawson, 1853, alt.  
 MUSIC: Anglo-Genevan Psalter, 1556

OLD 22nd  
 CMD

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate with recent First Church member Domenik Ackermann on his Installation this afternoon as Pastor at the Eliot Church of Newton.
- We pray for Carol Wilson-Braun as she experiences ongoing health issues.
- We pray for Susie Neubauer, who is struggling with painful arthritis in her lower back.
- We pray for Poppy & Brent Coffin as they continue loving & living with Alzheimer's and as Poppy transitions to the Bridges Memory Care Community in Lexington.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer: Bridget Melle, Rich Goode's sister; 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 all impacted by the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria and surrounding regions that killed tens of thousands of people, left over one million homeless, and caused widespread destruction. We pray for rescue and medical and relief crews. We pray for a swift and well-coordinated international response.
- We pray for all those affected by police violence. We pray for all those protesting and working at the local, state, and federal level to end police brutality, which disproportionately impacts persons and communities of color.
- 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 the wellbeing and safety of our trans siblings as they face the material effects of more than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access that have been introduced in current legislative sessions across 11 states.
- We pray for the people of and natural environment surrounding East Palestine, OH, as they navigate the aftermath of the recent toxic train fire.
- 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.
- 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 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.

## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

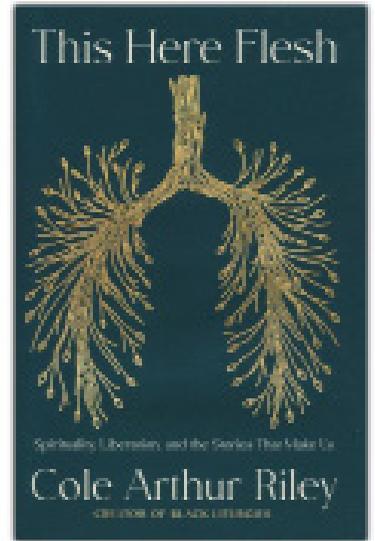
**First Church Community Read & Lenten Formation Series**  
**Today and Sundays, March 12 and 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.**  
**Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)**

*To be human in an aching world is to know our dignity  
and become people who safeguard the dignity of  
everything around us.*

- Cole Arthur Riley

Join a Lenten season all-church community read of [\*\*\*This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation and the Stories that Make Us\*\*\*](#) by

Cole Arthur Riley. Written as stories about the author's childhood and coming to self, *This Here Flesh* "boldly explores some of the most urgent questions of life and faith: How can spirituality not silence the body, but instead allow it to come alive? How do we honor, lament, and heal from the stories we inherit? How can we find peace in a world overtaken with dislocation, noise, and unrest? In this work of contemplative storytelling, Arthur Riley invites us to descend into our own stories, examine our capacity to rest, wonder, joy, rage, and repair, and find that our humanity is not an enemy to faith but evidence of it." We'll discuss the book in four hybrid Sunday morning sessions and in a Faith & Life Group that will meet on Thursdays mornings at 7:30 a.m., beginning March 9. Even if you can't attend the conversation, all are encouraged to join in reading this work of truth telling, memory, and embodied contemplative spirituality.



### **Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing Sundays in Lent at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Hastings Common**

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and join the Missions & Social Justice Committee as we engage in a simple action that we know can make a big difference! Our Lenten letter writing will support at least two efforts. We will write to our state legislators in support of the 2023-2024 MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda, which includes five priorities: Remove

Racist Mascots, Honor Indigenous People's Day, Celebrate and Teach Native American Cultures & History, Protect Native American Heritage, and Support the Education and Futures of Native Youth. We will also offer the opportunity to become a penpal with someone who is currently incarcerated.

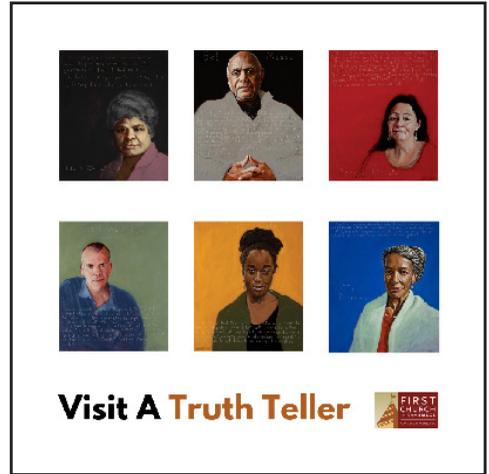
## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Visit a Truth Teller

**Sundays, March 5 - April 2, 12:15 p.m.**

Each Lenten Sunday, we invite you to gather around one or two of our Truth Telling portraits for a brief ritual after worship. After listening to a short description of the truth-teller's life and work, we will pause to look at the faces—the eyes—and to read the quote. We will sing a verse or two of a song and then send each other forth, inspired to go speak the truth in our lives and in our world! You will also be invited to linger in casual conversation and to engage each other in response to some 'truth-telling prompts' that will be available on tables in Margaret Jewett Hall and Hastings Common.

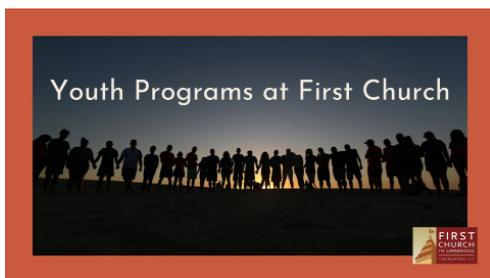
These portraits are the opposite of "hot takes" or quick opinions. They invite you to ponder a person, their words, and the issues that inspire their life's journey, work, activism, and imagination. They welcome you into a vital conversation, across time and space, about what it means to be an American. [Read more about the Americans Who Tell The Truth exhibit here.](#)



### Honoring Longtime Members Panel

**Today, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Join us to hear stories from three of our longtime members about what it's been like to have been in covenant with us for 50, 60, and even 70-plus years. Newcomers and those considering joining First Church are especially welcome at this event. Following the panel, newcomers and longtime members are invited to stay for a Newcomers Meet & Greet.



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

**Today, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., Sage Hall**

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

### Confirmation Class for 9/10th graders

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

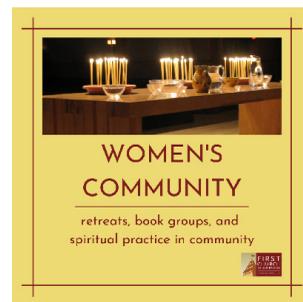
Our year-long Confirmation journey for 9th and 10th graders continues today with a session entitled "Eternal Life/Making Meaning of Death."

## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

The Women's Community is looking forward to their next gathering to discuss [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!



### Young Adults: Ice Skating in the North End

Friday, March 10, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., DCR Steriti Memorial Rink, Boston

Join other First Church 20- and 30-somethings for a night on the ice!

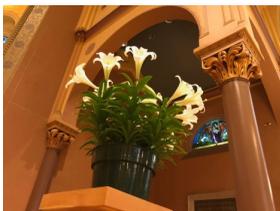
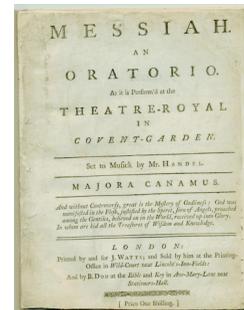
We'll skate and go for a warm beverage afterwards. Those interested in coming should let Phil Jones know by emailing: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org).

This will also keep you in the loop for our casual, bi-monthly get togethers for young adults.

### The Hallelujah Chorus, Reconsidered

Sunday, March 26, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Handel's beloved masterpiece Messiah has a backstory that we need to know about. Aspects of the setting of the text and Handel's investments will be explored and discussed, so that we may come to terms with colonial history and cultural attitudes of his time. Andy Clark and Peter Sykes will lead a discussion about what it may have meant in Handel's time and what it can mean for us now.



### Memorial Flowers for Easter

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to [Kirsten Manville](#) in the First Church office by April 2. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made online (check off the Easter Flowers category) or can be included in the offering baskets found at the front and back of the

Sanctuary (checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of "Easter Flowers"). Please email Kirsten the names even if you pay by check through the offering basket or online; this way we can make sure no one is missed. On Easter Sunday, the congregation is invited to take a plant to a homebound parishioner to spread the joy of Easter.

## WIDER COMMUNITY NEWS



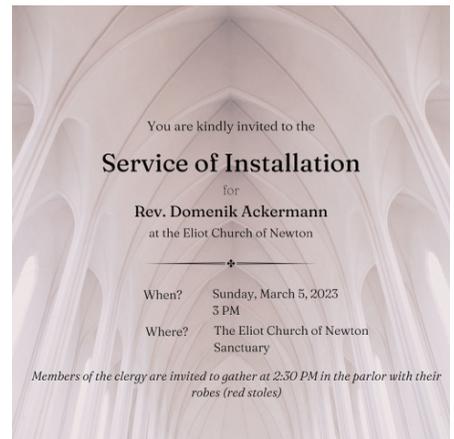
### **Kate Layzer Receives Community Service Award**

First Church Street Outreach Minister Kate Layzer is the recipient of the Harvard Square Business Association's 2023 Community Service Award, presented "with sincerest thanks... for her championing of the most vulnerable in our community." The award ceremony took place at the HSBA's Annual Meeting on March 2, 2023. Kate would like to express her gratitude to the many cooks, volunteers, and supporters

who help translate our vision for the Friday Café into reality each week. This community service award is for all of you.

### **Service of Installation for Rev. Domenik Ackermann Today at 3:00 p.m., Eliot Church of Newton**

First Church folks are warmly invited to the installation of former First Church member Dom Ackermann at Eliot Church of Newton. Clergy are invited to robe with red stoles and gather at 2:30 p.m.



### **UCC GMP Search Committee Recommends**

#### **Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson**

#### **as Next General Minister and President of our Denomination**

After a year-long search, the United Church of Christ Board's Search Committee for General Minister and President has made a historic choice. The committee recommends Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the UCC Board of Directors as nominee for General Minister and President. If elected, she would be the first woman, and the first woman of African descent, to lead the denomination.

**[Read the letter](#) to the wider church from Search Committee Chair [and First Church Shelter's 2019 Summer Intern] Rev. Emma Brewer-Wallin.**

# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, March 6

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Executive Council Leadership Communications, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, March 7

- 7:15 a.m. Reflective Conversations with Brent Coffin, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, Harter Room
- 6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

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

## Wednesday, March 8

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: An Introductory Conversation about Reparations, via Zoom

## Thursday, March 9

- 7:30 a.m. Faith & Life Group: *This Here Flesh* Extended Discussion Group, via Zoom
- 10:30 a.m. Faith & Life Group: Spring Tune-Up and Care of our Temples (bodies) with Tai Chi Chih, MJH
- 6:00 p.m. Weekly Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom

## Friday, March 10

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Ice Skating in the North End, DCR Steriti Memorial Rink, Boston

## Sunday, March 12 - Third Sunday in Lent - Daylight Savings Time Begins

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Lenten Series - *This Here Flesh*, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:15 a.m. Lenten Letter Writing for Justice and Healing, 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
- 12:15 p.m. Coffee Hour, MJH and Hybrid Community Coffee Hour, Harter Room
- 12:15 p.m. Visit a Truth Teller, Hastings Common
- 1:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Sage Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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