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Lent  
March 30, 2025

## 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

389 YEARS  
ON THE WAY

1636 – 2025

**March 30, 2025**

<b>Liturgist</b>	Susie Neubauer
<b>Preaching Today</b>	Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i>
<b>Assisting in Worship</b>	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	photography by Audrey Bellinger

### Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Lenten Formation: Connecting with Truth Tellers, Harter Room & <a href="#">via Zoom</a>
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in MJH
12:30 p.m.	Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
12:30 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
7:00 p.m.	Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults Through the Confirmation Curriculum II, <a href="#">via Zoom</a>
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a welcome card found on small clipboards in the pews or [online](#), so that we might connect with you about our community.

### Give to First Church

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give)

### 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)

### Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

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

*"It's OK not to understand the whole trans thing. That's all right.  
My dad didn't understand it. I still don't know everything.  
What's important is you sort of educate yourself on your own time,  
but you have to respect it on everyone else's time.  
Because no one should have to wait for equality."*

- Nicole Maines, truth teller featured in  
the *Americans Who Tell the Truth* project

### VOLUNTARY

Canon alla Duodecima in contrapunto alla Quinta

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN (insert)

Let There Be Life in This House

*see page 5*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Susie Neubauer

L: Beloved of the Holy One, come,  
as we thirst for wellsprings in the wilderness;

**C we come, seeking the water of life.**

L: People of the Way, come,  
as we yearn for a deeper life and a fairer world;

**C: we come, seeking courage through the Spirit's call.**

L: Friends of Christ, come,  
as we open ourselves to the truth that sets us free;

**C: we come, seeking love deep as an aquifer and wide as the sea!**

**All: Let us now draw near to God, who is always at our side.**

## WORDS OF WELCOME

## CONFESSING

### ANTHEM

Kyrie Orbis Factor

9th century Sarum Chant

*Maker of the world, Ruler eternal, have mercy upon us.*

*O immense source of pity, have mercy upon us.*

*Drive off all our evils, have mercy upon us.*

*Christ who art the light of the world and giver of life, have mercy upon us.*

*Consider the wounds produced by the devil's art, have mercy upon us.*

*Keeping and confirming thy believers, have mercy upon us.*

*We know that God is one and three, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou and thy Creator, an equal light, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou, merciful unto us, art present with the Holy Spirit that we might live in thee,  
have mercy upon us.*

*\*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

## SILENCE

## SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## \*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ  
be with you!

C: And also with you!

## \*HYMN 426 I've Got Peace Like a River

## A MUTUAL BLESSING

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: And God be with you here.

*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.*

## OPENING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of living water, you meet us in unexpected places  
and surprise us with the abundance of your love.  
Feed us by your word, offered in scripture that is ancient,  
yet alive among us.  
Fill us with your Spirit, so that we may follow you  
this day and always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

## SERMON

Mike Solberg

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the United Church of Canada

Kate Layzer

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.  
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.



We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

- 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

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,  
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.  
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your  
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



### OFFERTORY

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Spiritual

### \*DOXOLOGY

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## GOING FORTH

**\*HYMN 366**

We Are Walking in the Light of God

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Canon alla Ottava

J. S. Bach



### **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 with the QR code.

# OPENING HYMN

## Let there be life in this house

*for First Church in Cambridge on its tenth anniversary of declaring itself an Open and Affirming Church*

Peter Sykes

Kate Layzer

Let there be life in this house Poured from the rich - es of  
 Let there be life in this house Ten - der and truth - ful and  
 Let there be life in this house Life of the Spi - rit and  
 Let there be life in this house Life of the Bod - y di -

God Treas - ure in so man - y ves - sels of clay Giv - en for shar - ing, not  
 real Life of be - long - ing, res - pect - ed and free Hon - ored for all God de -  
 fire Lov - ing, be - lov - ed, new - born from a - bove Dar - ing to love be - cause  
 vine Kind - ly and pas - sion - ate, ear - thy and odd We are the Church, be -

hid - ing a - way, Let there be life in this house!  
 clares us to be, Let there be life in this house!  
 we have been loved, Let there be life in this house!  
 lov - ed of God, Let there be life in this house!



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## I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a  
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an  
 4. I've got faith like an an-chor, I've got faith like an

1.  
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my  
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my  
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my  
 an-chor, I've got faith like an an-chor, in - a my

2.  
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got an-chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

77.10 D

Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).



# CLOSING HYMN

366

## We Are Walking (Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' Kwenkhos')

We are \*walk - ing in the light of God, we are  
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya -

1. walk - ing in the light of God. We are  
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos. Si - ya -

2. walk-ing in the light of the light of God. We are  
hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya  
of kwen God, khos' We are  
Si - ya

walk-ing ham - ba Oo Oo We are  
Si - ya -  
walk-ing, walk-ing, we are walk-ing, walk-ing, we are  
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -

\* marching/singing/dancing/praying

SIYAHAMBA

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We celebrate with Claire, Robb, and Wesley Morgan as they welcome Austin Wilder Morgan to their family! Austin was born on Saturday, March 22, and is receiving a bit of care in the hospital before heading home.
- We pray for Chris Reynolds and Jim Greaney, who are mourning the loss of two family members over the past month due to heart ailments. Chris's cousin Ken Perkins died in Springfield, VA, on February 20 at the age of 75; and Chris's aunt Verna Perkins, aged 96, died on March 20 in Marshfield, MA.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Ellen Frith, who is living with a serious chronic illness; Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and Keith Manville, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; and Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters.
- On the eve of Trans Day of Visibility, we celebrate our trans and gender nonconforming siblings as beloved children of God, created in God's image. We pray that our nation, in its laws and regulations, may strive to recognize the humanity and dignity of all persons by strengthening protections against discrimination; and we pledge to continue our efforts to create truly welcoming and safe spaces for people of all gender identities.
- We pray for 238 Venezuelan men illegally removed from the US on March 15 and transferred to a maximum security prison in El Salvador, where they face grave human rights violations. We pray for their families, and for all those who are living under the daily threat of detention, and especially for the immigrant communities in Chelsea, Fall River, and New Bedford, where ICE has increased their presence. We pray for the future of our democracy, as we witness alarming abuses of power.
- We pray for Rumeysa Ozturk, a Tufts graduate student detained by ICE on Tuesday and moved to a facility in Louisiana. We pray for her safety and wellbeing as we witness how international students with legal status are being arrested for what appear to be exercises of free speech.
- We pray for the families who lost loved ones in the catastrophic storms in the central US two weeks ago. We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis, especially as the scientific research arm of EPA is being decimated by staff firings and defunding.
- We continue to pray for peace in Eastern Congo, where millions are displaced due to the fighting between the Rwandan-backed M23 militia and the Congolese army. We pray that the children and staff of the Congo Peace School will be safe, and that God's presence may be with them and all the loved ones of Amani and Amini Matabaro Tom.
- We pray for Gaza, especially as the ceasefire was shattered recently by an Israeli attack that killed over 400 Palestinians. We pray for all who are grieving, as we continue to bear witness to the terrible impact of ongoing war, in Gaza and in other regions of the world trapped in cycles of violence.

<b>TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH</b>
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A poster for Trans Day of Visibility. The background is a gradient of purple and blue with a subtle, sparkling texture. At the top, the date "MARCH 31st '15" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main title "TRANS DAY of VISIBILITY" is centered in large, white, bold letters. "TRANS" and "VISIBILITY" are in a clean, sans-serif font, while "DAY" is in a larger, bolder sans-serif font, and "of" is in a white script font. Below the title, a thin white horizontal line spans the width of the text. Underneath the line, the words "trans day of visibility" are written in a white script font inside a white-outlined pill-shaped box. At the bottom left, the word "glad" is in a white sans-serif font, followed by a white icon of a person with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture.

MARCH 31st '15

# TRANS DAY *of* VISIBILITY

*trans day of visibility*

glad 

\_\_\_\_\_

## Lenten Formation Series: Connecting with Truth Tellers

The Christian Formation Committee invites you, once again, to engage with portraits of truth tellers as we walk together through the season of Lent. Join us for the fourth and final session dedicated to grounding ourselves in the stories of activists for immigrant justice, environmental sustainability, and trans rights, as well as a journalist who spoke truth to power with a generous dose of humor. In this “wilderness” time for our nation, come connect with these wellsprings as we seek spiritual sustenance and inspiration for our own action.



Anyone and everyone at First Church is invited to sing with the Family Choir in Palm Sunday worship on April 13. People of all ages and all experience levels are welcome to learn a compelling song of walking together. Join Sarah Higginbotham for **two more short rehearsals in the Chapel after worship**, then plan to arrive early on Palm Sunday to prepare our musical offering for worship.

**Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., The Well**

**Today, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream**

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## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH



### Lent 2025: Wellsprings in the Wilderness

Each year the season of Lent begins with the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness, being tempted by “the Slanderer” (a.k.a. Satan) as Jesus begins his public teaching. “The wilderness” seems like a particularly poignant image for many of us these days, both in personal and public life. During this Lenten season, we are reflecting on our experiences of wilderness and take hope that, even in the wilderness, there are wellsprings that sustain us. Because

truth and truth tellers are one of those wellsprings, we’ll be blessed again by engaging with four powerful portraits from the [Americans Who Tell the Truth](#) project. Come, and drink from wellsprings in the wilderness.

### Organ Music in Lent

The organ music played during this year’s season of Lent is taken from “The Art of Fugue” by Johann Sebastian Bach. This monumental exploration of musical discipline contains some of the most sophisticated contrapuntal music ever written and was left unfinished at Bach’s death. If you’d like to know more, ask Music Director Peter Sykes after any service; he will be happy to elaborate!



### 40-Day Target Fast

Beginning March 5 - Concluding April 17, 2025



[www.targetfast.org](http://www.targetfast.org)

### Join Black Churches in Boycotting Target During Lent

Rev. Jamal Bryant of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Stonecrest, Georgia, is recruiting “100,000 conscientious Christians,” to join a Lenten fast from Target, a retail chain store that recently announced it would pull back from its diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, including one dedicated to diversifying the suppliers it uses to stock its shelves. Black churches and denominations, such as Washington’s Metropolitan AME Church, which hosted 40 First Church pilgrims in 2019, are urging white churches to join the ef-

fort. The Missions & Social Justice Committee and the Beloved Community group hope that 100 people at First Church in Cambridge will join this Lenten fast by signing your name to a poster that will be available again during today’s Coffee Hour, or by emailing our Racial Justice group at: [belovedcommunity@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:belovedcommunity@firstchurchcambridge.org) to have your name included.

[Read more, including information on shopping at local, Black-owned businesses.](#)



## COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

### Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, April 5, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room**

The Men's Breakfast is a forum for any and all who identify as men at First Church. We meet monthly to share breakfast and to share experiences. We prepare breakfast and participate with a rotating monthly leader. All are welcome! 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)



### Discovery Team Conversation

**Sunday, April 6, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

The Discovery Team is eager to engage you in conversation on topics that directly relate to our upcoming search for a new Senior Minister. This month we'll ask the following questions: What is the balance in the Church between being outward facing (social justice, for example) and inward facing (deepening our relationship with each other and God)?

How do you feel about the current balance? How would you like it to shift, if at all?

### In Memoriam

A memorial service for beloved long-time member Perry Neubauer will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow.

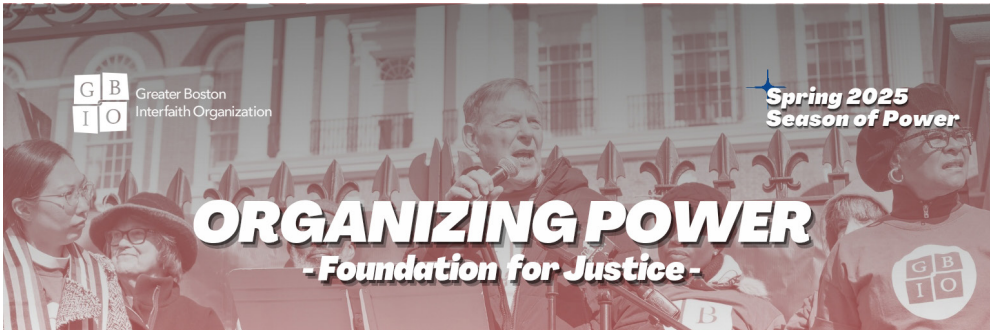


### Discovery Team Conversation with Our Livestream Community

**Sunday, April 13, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., [via Zoom](#)**

We have a robust number of folks who livestream our worship from afar each Sunday. The Discovery Team invites you to a special conversation to learn how we can improve your engagement with the Church, as well as your thoughts on what skills, experience, and focus you might like to see in our new Pastor. Other questions and topics of concern/interest are most welcome! Please email Martha Mueller Cook ([marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com)) with any questions you might have, and then join her by Zoom on Palm Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.

## GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION



### GBIO Organizing Trainings in April

“Organizing Power: Foundation for Justice” is a training for leaders who want to organize their congregations, organizations, and communities to make change in a time of great uncertainty and increasing isolation. Trainers will provide a framework for power and tools to build it that leaders can use to organize institutionally, locally, and beyond for this moment and for generations to come.

If we are serious about justice, we need power. And if we want power, we need to make time to organize. (You only need to register for ONE session, and yes, there will be food.) If you’d like to coordinate your signup with other FCC folks, email Will with your preferred date (wericks2002@gmail.com).

Scan QR Codes to Register:

**NOTE: Registration deadline for these workshops is 3/28**

**NOTE: Registration deadline for these workshops is 4/18**

**APR 05**

**2 - 8PM**

**Bethel AME Church**



**APR 06**

**1:30 - 7:30PM**

**Bethel AME Church**



**APR 26**

**2 - 8PM**

**Location TBD**



**APR 27**

**1:30 - 7:30PM**

**Hyde Park SDA Church**



Additional workshops for May and June to be announced

## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST CHURCH



### Easter Flower Donations

If you wish to donate memorial flowers for loved ones this Easter, please send the names of those to be remembered to Bruce Dillenbeck ([bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org)) in the First Church office by Friday, April 11. Contributions of \$20 to help defray the cost of flowers can be made [online](#) or by check in the offering basket (payable to First Church in Cambridge, with a memo line of “Easter Flowers”). ***Please send an email to Bruce with 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.

### Palm Sunday Breakfast

**Sunday, April 13, 10:00 - 10:50 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Join us as we participate in one of the most ancient, common, and sustaining of Christian practices—sharing a meal together, in an atmosphere where strangers are guests, guests are friends, and friends are family. This meal will be a partial potluck: Fellowship will provide hot cross buns, granola, yogurt, and coffee, and the congregation is invited to contribute fruit, juice, or a breakfast side such as quiche or sausage. Breakfast at 10:00 a.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall will nourish us in body and spirit for our 10:55 a.m. Palm Sunday procession into the Sanctuary. Signup sheet for volunteers to follow, stay tuned!



*Please find all the information about  
Holy Week observances on our website:*

[firstchurchcambridge.org /holy-week-and-easter-2025/](http://firstchurchcambridge.org/holy-week-and-easter-2025/)



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES



### **Palm Sunday Service**

**Sunday, April 13**

*Palm Procession at 10:55 a.m., church lawn*

*Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream*

We remember Jesus' final entry into Jerusalem. We greet him with a "parade" of young and old, waving palms and singing traditional songs. Come join us as we make our way on the road with Jesus! You are also welcome to go directly to the Sanctuary in person or via livestream.

### **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Thursday, April 17, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

*Sanctuary and via livestream*

We recall the new commandment Jesus gave his disciples "to love one another as I have loved you." We remember this truth revealed to us during his last meal with his friends by celebrating Holy Communion. And in a candle-lit, then darkened, sanctuary, we call to mind Jesus' anguish and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. We depart in silence. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

### **Good Friday Service**

**Friday, April 18, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

*Chapel and via livestream*

We gather to grieve together, to lament injustice, and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. Join us for this solemn service of ritual, readings, and song that will help us hold the grief of our lives and world. *Parents are encouraged to use their judgment; this service is likely most suitable for children older than 10.*

### **Easter Worship**

**Sunday, April 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

*Sanctuary and via livestream*

Christ is Risen! We celebrate God's gift of new life and love stronger than death as we recall and sing out the story of the Risen One, who meets us on the way!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Understanding Human Trafficking Today

**Sunday, April 27, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom**

While the Emancipation Proclamation ended the legality of slavery in the United States, it did not end its practice – either domestically or abroad.

By many accounts, there are more people facing enslaved conditions today than at any other time in history. Over a quarter are women and children, the vast majority of whom are victims of sexual exploitation. We welcome Mark van de Fliert to lead a discussion about modern slavery, exploitation, and trafficking. What are the signs that a person might be trafficked? How prevalent do we think trafficking and exploitation are in a metropolis like Greater Boston? And what might faith communities do to combat exploitation and support survivors? Mark has a background working on issues of human trafficking and modern slavery around the world. He currently works in our First Church Shelter while pursuing graduate studies at the Harvard Divinity and Kennedy Schools.



### Tuesday Family Night Reunion

**Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall**

For many years in the 2010's, First Church families with young children would gather every other Tuesday evening in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner. Parents would linger over dinner as kids raced around our basement playspace on tricycles or built towers with blocks. Deeper reflection and connection amongst parents

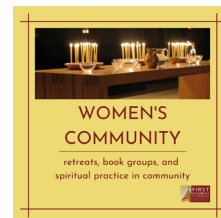
would take place during seasonal small group offerings during this time, including Bible study and book group discussion. We are now at a point when a new generation of families with young children might be ready to consider choosing this type of community connection. To kick start the conversation, ALL families from the “old” Family Night are invited to join ANY “new” families with young ones for a chance to look back and look forward toward a possible renewal of this family ministry. Sarah will provide the pasta and sauce (on the side!); please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Most importantly, bring your kids, no matter how young or old - the trikes are still here waiting for them!

### First Church Women's Retreat

**Saturday, May 3, 9:00 - 12:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

All who identify as women in the First Church community are invited to save the date of Saturday, May 3, for our annual Women's Retreat. This year, the focus will be on themes found in Robin Wall Kimmerer's new gem of a book *[The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World](#)*. Contact

Alex ([alex@steinert-evoy.com](mailto:alex@steinert-evoy.com)) or Sue ([susanreynolds235@gmail.com](mailto:susanreynolds235@gmail.com)) to learn more and borrow a book.





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, March 31

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Communications & Arts Committee, via Zoom

## Wednesday, April 2

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
4:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Church, A Larger Picture, Harter Room  
7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team Meeting, via Zoom

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

## Thursday, April 3

6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Continuing to Hope for Peace & Justice in the Holy Land, via Zoom

## Friday, April 4

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

## Saturday, April 5

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

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

## Sunday, April 6 - Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Discovery Team Conversation, MJH  
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. Refreshments in Hastings Common  
12:30 p.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel  
12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well  
7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults Through the Confirmation Curriculum II, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



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