

Eastertide
April 27, 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

April 27, 2025

Liturgist	Will Marshall
Preaching Today	Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship & Finance</i>
Assisting in Worship	Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	sunrise design by Perry Neubauer

Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Understanding Human Trafficking Today, Harter Room and via Zoom
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School Classes: Creative Arts Project, Margaret Jewett Hall
12:15 p.m.	Newcomers Meet and Greet, Library
12:15 p.m.	Listening Session for People of Color at First Church, Harter Room
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
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 **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

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

GATHERING

*I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others,
including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands,
bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!*
– Pope Francis, April 20, 2025

VOLUNTARY

Lied

Louis Vierne

*HYMN 216

The Day of Resurrection

*GREETING

Will Marshall

- L: Come friends, neighbors, people of God,
experience the warmth of God's everlasting love.
- C: The warmth of God's everlasting love will sustain us.**
- L: Gather in the light of the Resurrection,
to greet God's new day of healing and hope.
- C: Let us be at peace in this place,
where all are welcome and all belong.**
- L: Open your hearts to the power of God's love.
- C: Let us worship together, journey together,
and be the church together;**
- L: for God, our ancient and ever-present hope, is with us, making all things new!
- C: Amen!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Now The Green Blade Riseth

Trad. arr. P. Sykes

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: God of Justice, when we settle for the way things are instead of the way you would have them be, forgive us. When we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision, increase our trust in you. When we offer charity, but fail to work for justice, show us what your love requires. When we walk ahead or behind, instead of with our neighbor, open our eyes to their humanity. When we tire of the struggle, and tomorrow feels overwhelming, restore our hope and renew our courage, In the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: And also with you!

L: Please share the peace of Christ with others.

*HYMN 500

O for a World

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

READINGS

Acts 4:32-35 **and** Acts 5:26-32

SERMON

Karen McArthur

*HYMN 240

I Love Your Church, O God

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Solberg

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

Christ, We Meet You On Our Way

LLANFAIR, text Allen Happe

*DOXOLOGY

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess;
that we may give thee all our days
the willing tribute of our praise! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 384

We, Your People, God, Confessing

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Scherzetto

Louis Vierne



SCAN ME

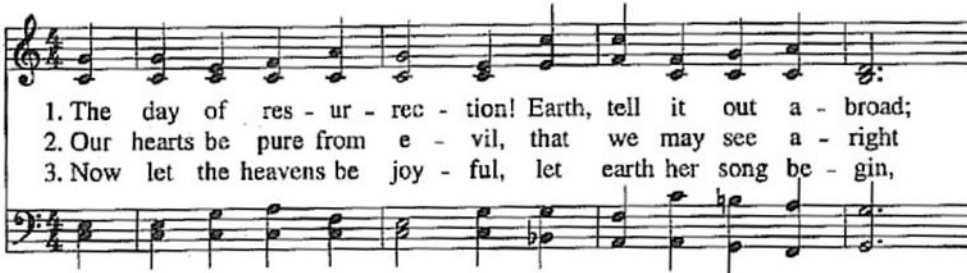
First Church Land Acknowledgment

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

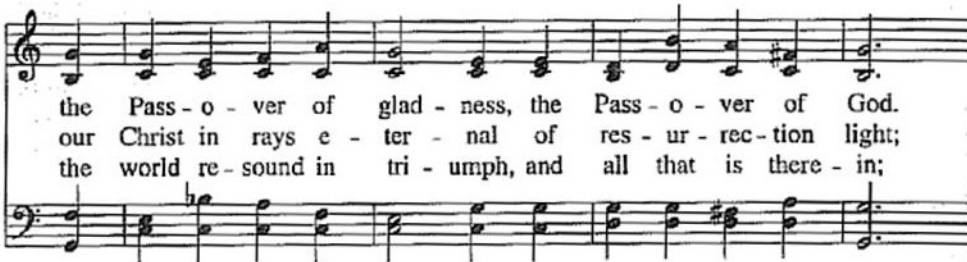
You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or with the QR code.

216

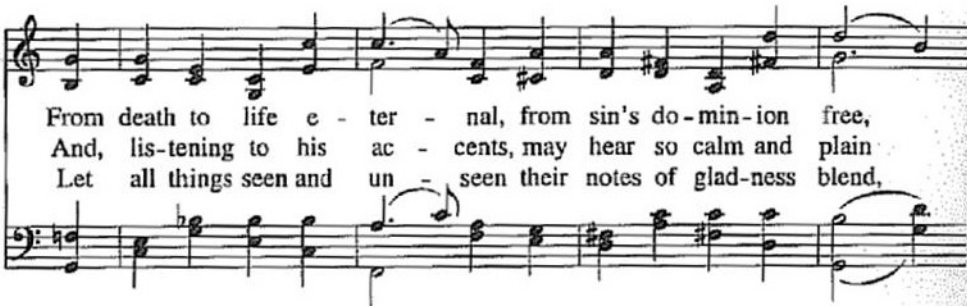
The Day of Resurrection!



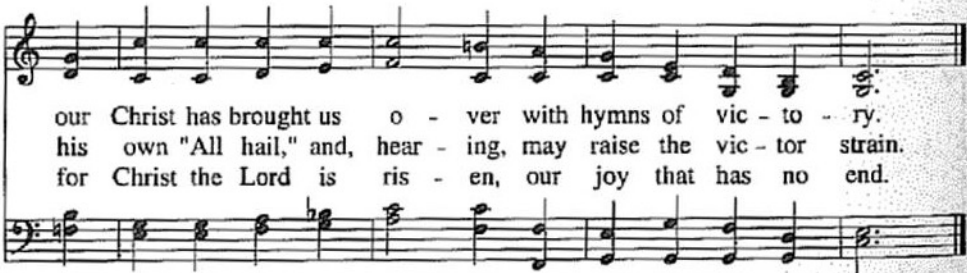
1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin,



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 our Christ in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 the world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



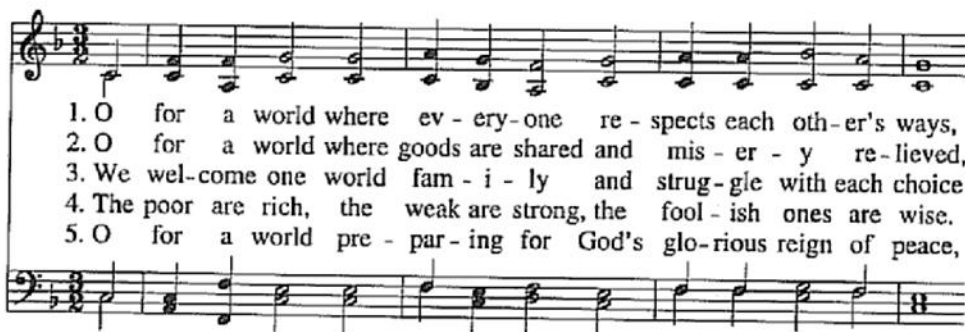
From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 And, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear so calm and plain
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



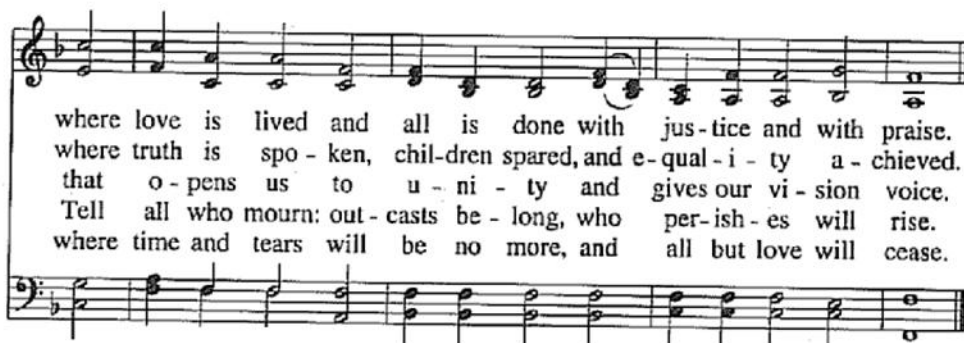
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail," and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord is ris - en, our joy that has no end.

O for a World

500



1. O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5. O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

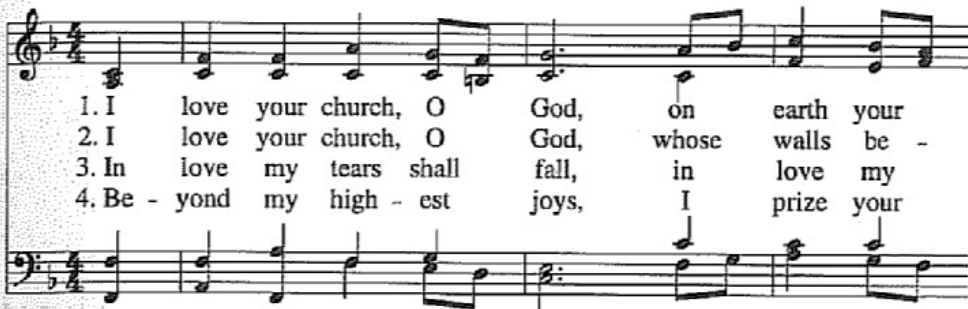


where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, and e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

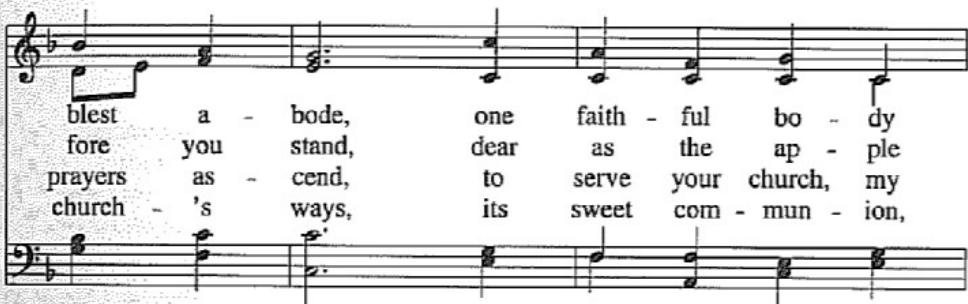
WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1997

I Love Your Church, O God

240



1. I love your church, O God, on earth your
 2. I love your church, O God, whose walls be -
 3. In love my tears shall fall, in love my
 4. Be - yond my high - est joys, I prize your



blest a - bode, one faith - ful bo - dy
 fore you stand, dear as the ap - ple
 prayers as - cend, to serve your church, my
 church - 's ways, its sweet com - mun - ion,



saved by Christ with his own pre - cious blood.
 of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.
 toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 sol - emn vows, its hymns of love and praise.

We, Your People, God, Confessing 384

1. We, your peo-ple, God, con-fess-ing Je - sus Christ your Son as Lord,
 2. We, your peo-ple, God, re - joic-ing in your vast cre - a - tive power,
 3. We, your peo-ple, God, com-mun-ing through the Ho - ly Spir - it, here,
 4. We, your peo-ple, God, re - ceiv-ing gifts of min - is - try out-poured

gath-er here in com-mon wor-ship prais-ing your In - car - nate Word.
 bind our-selves, each with the oth - er, cov - e - nant in love this hour.
 joined to - geth - er as dis - ci - ples, in o - be - dience now draw near.
 in the light of ho - ly scrip-ture are set free, re - freshed, re - stored.

Through the power of Christ with-in us we are strength-ened to pro-claim
 Through bap-tis - mal rite we en - ter, ris-ing, new - ly born to be
 At the ta - ble where the em-blems of Christ's sac - ri - fice are spread,
 In the bonds of faith we serve you, God of all, whom we a - dore.

gos - pel truth in wit-ness, ser-vice of - fered in Christ's ho - ly name.
 u - ni - fied with your whole peo-ple here in per - fect lib - er - ty.
 here we cel - e - brate his pres-ence with the cup and bro - ken bread.
 Yours the bless-ing, yours the glo - ry, one God, reign-ing ev - er - more!

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the world-wide Roman Catholic communion, upon the death of Pope Francis. May all know the faith, hope, and love that were hallmarks of Francis's life and ministry.
- We pray for First Church friend Ted Hansen who is recovering from skin graft surgery after being badly burned last week.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: 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.
- We pray for the hundreds of people who have been illegally removed from the US 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 also for international students at universities across the US who have had their visas pulled and who are being detained or deported. We pray for the safety of Tufts graduate student Rumeysa Ozturk and other students facing detention for exercising their right to free speech. We pray for the future of our democracy, as we witness alarming abuses of power.
- We lift up our near neighbor, Harvard University, in the midst of a confrontation with the federal government over academic independence and freedom of speech; and we pray that their courage in this moment continues to inspire other institutions to speak truth to power.
- We continue to celebrate the dignity and worth of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings who are experiencing an onslaught of prejudicial discrimination condoned by the current administration. We affirm that all of us are beloved in the eyes of God, just as we are.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis, especially as NOAA and the scientific research arm of EPA are both 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 for those mourning loss of life and of medical care with the bombing of al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza City on Palm Sunday. We also pray for the people of Sumy and Kyiv, Ukraine, where recent Russian attack killed over 40 people and injured many more. We pray for all who are grieving, as we continue to bear witness to the terrible impact of ongoing war in Gaza, in Ukraine, and in other regions of the world trapped in cycles of violence.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Understanding Human Trafficking Today

Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

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.



Newcomers Meet-and-Greet

Today at 12:15 p.m., Library

If you are new to First Church, here's a dedicated time to chat a bit with Pastor Mike, a few other leaders, and other new folks. "New" is self-defined, but surely includes those who have been around one to a few times. Follow the crowd to our parish hall, get some coffee and a cookie, and come join us in the Library on the far side of the room.

Listening Session for People of Color at First Church

Today at 12:15 p.m., Harter Room

As we continue the important journey of discerning who will become our next Sr. Minister, we deeply value the diverse voices and experiences that make our church the vibrant community it is. If you identify as a person of color please plan to join us for one of our conversation times offered specifically for you. We envision this as a time of open-hearted sharing, where your insights will be heard and thoughtfully considered. Your participation will play a vital role in shaping the search process and ensuring that the new minister we call will be a leader who embraces and celebrates the diversity of our congregation. **Another in-person listening session will be May 4 after worship and there will be two sessions by zoom, on May 1 and May 8 at 7 p.m. See the website calendar for details.**



Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall

Today at 12:15 p.m.

Please join us in our parish hall (through the side door of the Sanctuary) for a time to connect over coffee, cookies, and other goodies. All are welcome!

Night Song

Today, 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.

[Learn more about Night Song.](#)



EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



Tuesday Family Night Reunion

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

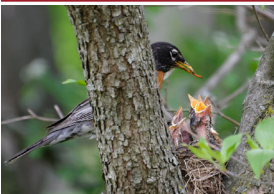
For many years in the 2010's, First Church families with young children would gather every other Tuesday evening in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner, where kids could play as grown-ups lingered over supper for conversation and connection. We are now at a point when a new generation of families 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. We'll also make space for a Discovery Team conversation with parents of school-aged children, hosted by Meredith Quinn.

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!

Discovery Team Conversations with Parents

The Discovery Team would like to hear from parents of school-aged children about your experiences at First Church, and your hopes for our next chapter. There are three ways to be heard:

- Come to Family Night on **Tuesday, April 29, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**
Children are welcome, and dinner will be served!
- Join a Zoom gathering on **Wednesday, April 30, at 8:00 p.m.**
Contact Meredith at: meredithMquinn@gmail.com to get the link.
- Tell Meredith when you have 10 minutes available, and she will call you!
We know you are busy; we'll be grateful for any time you can spare.



Birding with Marianne

Saturday, May 3, 7:00 - 8:30 a.m., Mt. Auburn Cemetery

Meet Marianne Jensen at the gates of Mt. Auburn Cemetery to search for and identify migratory birds. Women are invited to continue on to join the First Church Women's Retreat at 9:00 a.m.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, May 3, 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!



EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

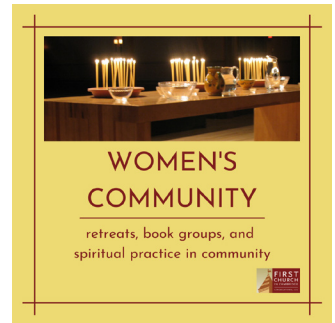
First Church Women's Retreat: Register Now!

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

Registration is now open for our annual Women's Retreat; all who identify as women in the First Church community are invited!

[Please register here.](#)

This year, the focus is 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) or Sue (susanreynolds235@gmail.com) to learn more and borrow a book.



Faith & Life Group: Care for the Caregivers

Mondays, May 5 & 19, and June 2, 16, 30

6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

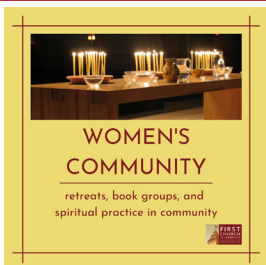
Caring for spouses, parents and other aging loved ones is challenging on many levels. This group offers emotional support, practical advice, and a sense of community for caregivers. Whether you're managing health issues, navigating long-term care options, or balancing work and family responsibilities, we hope to offer encouragement, reduce

isolation, and support you to care for your loved one and yourself. This is a continuation of an ongoing Faith & Life group; new and returning members are both welcome! Please contact Amy (amymatias.licsw@gmail.com) or Stefanie (shaug007@gmail.com) to be added to the group and to receive the Zoom invitation.

Discovery Team Conversation [NEW DATE]

Sunday, May 18, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

The Discovery Team invites you to join us for another time for reflection as we make our way along the journey of pastoral transition. By that time, we will have preliminary results from our Pastoral Search Congregational Survey, and we are eager to dive into some of the questions that the survey raises. Please join us, and, of course, [complete the survey!](#) (See next page for more information.)



Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, May 6, 6:30 - 7:45 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for a moving (always!) discussion of our next book, Kathryn Schulz's [Lost and Found: Reflections on Grief, Gratitude, and Happiness](#). Described as "part memoir, part guidebook to living in a world that is simultaneously full of wonder and joy and wretchedness and suffering--a world that always demands both our gratitude and our grief," this is a timely choice for many. We look forward to all who join us--bring a friend!

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

All-Church Questionnaire for Our Pastoral Search All Encouraged to Offer Input Now!



The First Church Discovery Team is excited to announce that our Pastoral Search Congregational Survey is available. This helps us learn who you, as congregants, believe our church to be—and who we are called to be. Your responses are critically important to the process of finding a pastor who will lead us for years to come.

All congregants age 15 or older are encouraged to take the survey. It is anonymous.

It could take 45 minutes to complete. Please set aside time to finish in one sitting. You can [complete the survey here](#) or find it by scanning the QR code:



If you are unable to complete the survey online, paper copies are available on the table outside the Sanctuary by the Hastings Common area. Please return completed copies there as well.

The Discovery Team understands this is a meaningful time commitment and thanks you for your crucial input. If you have any questions, please reach out to Martha Mueller Cook at marthamuellercook@gmail.com

Act soon - we will receive submissions until Monday, May 12. God bless our search!

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

Parsonage Conversations

Sunday, May 11, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Thursday, May 15, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., via Zoom

Sunday, May 18, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

In 2022, we set up an assets working group to help get a clear picture of some of our important historic assets which included archives material, the cockerel weathervane, and the Parsonage. As a congregation, we have made decisions on how to handle those first two items and we are now at a point where it is time to think about the future of the Parsonage, the house at 44 Garden Street that is owned by First Church to serve as a residence for the Senior Minister. This is an important aspect of our pastoral transition as we will need to have a clear plan for how to provide housing support when we call a new Senior Minister.

Executive Council appointed a small working group to explore options for the Parsonage as a property and related issues about pastoral housing. This working group has been engaged over the past few months in information gathering related to local real estate, current-day expectations for pastoral housing, and related issues. The group is now planning a series of listening sessions to get the insights and thoughts of the congregation to guide the development of some options for us to consider.

We encourage as many people as possible to participate in one of these sessions. In preparation, we hope you will take a few minutes to think about



the ways in which we use the current house on Garden Street, the principles or values that should guide how we provide housing support to our pastor, and how these questions figure into our long-term sustainability as a congregation.

If you are not able to attend a session or have other questions related to this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the working group members directly with your thoughts or concerns.

Thank you,

The Parsonage Working Group

Chris Baker, Audrey Bellinger, Laurie Burt, Jim Cairns, and David Torrey



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, April 28

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Cross Purposes, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, April 29

- 5:30 p.m. Tuesday Family Night Reunion, Sage Hall
7:00 p.m. Executive Council, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, April 30

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: To Live in the World as Prayer, via Zoom
8:00 p.m. Discovery Team Conversation with Parents, via Zoom

Friday, May 2

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

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

Saturday, May 3

- 7:00 a.m. Birding with Marianne, Mt. Auburn Cemetery
8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room
9:00 a.m. Women's Retreat, MJH

Sunday, May 4

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Harter Room and Zoom
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. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
12:15 p.m. Listening Session for People of Color at First Church, Library
12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Harter Room and MJH
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



SCAN ME

scan for online bulletin

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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