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Lent  
April 6, 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 6, 2025**

**Liturgist**

Laurie Williams, *Deacon*

**Preaching Today**

Emma Mitchell, *Pastoral Associate*

**Assisting in Worship**

Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*

Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Bulletin Cover Image**

photography by Audrey Bellinger

### Today's Programs and Events

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m.	Discovery Team Conversation, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
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

*For those worshiping via livestream, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion. All are welcome at the Table!*

### VOLUNTARY

Contrapunctus V (Art of Fugue)

J. S. Bach

### \*HYMN 4

Come, Living God, When Least Expected

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Laurie Williams

- 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

Josef Rheinberger

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

199

### 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 427

My Life Flows On  
in Endless Song

The musical score is for the hymn 'O Lord, Hear My Prayer' (number 199). It is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The score is for a four-part setting: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The lyrics are: 'O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.' The music features a mix of whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes, with some rests. The final measure of the piece is a double bar line.

*\*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.*

## **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: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.*

## **JOINING A NEW MEMBER IN COVENANT**

**INVITATION**

Emma Mitchell

**ADDRESS**

**PROMISES**

Mike Solberg

**ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBER**

Olivia Olafsson

## **\*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.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER AND WELCOME**

## **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, and fill us with your Spirit,  
so that we may follow you this day and always.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**READING**

Isaiah 43:16-21

**READING**

John 12:1-8

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

**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

### 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

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

Isaac Watts

**\*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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.

## SHARING THE FEAST

### BLESSING OF HOME COMMUNION SETS

### INVITATION

## **\*PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

**All:** Praise to you, God of glory, for this welcome table,  
set in love for all who seek to know you!  
From the foundation of the world  
you have desired to share the banquet of life  
with us and all your creatures.  
Mindful of our failings and of your kindness to us,  
we ask help for our hearts,  
that we may grow in love and forbearance, each for each.  
Mindful also of all whose lives are marked by pain and exclusion,  
we thank you for the joy we know in your household.  
Make us able and willing to welcome the world as Jesus did,  
to offer his healing and peace,  
and to witness in word and work to the justice you desire.

## **REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS**

**L:** Now, O God, we fall silent, remembering 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, and no one 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 AND 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 compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table. For those worshipping via the livestream, please take and eat. For those here in the Sanctuary, please come forward with your bulletins to receive the elements at one of the stations, then continue on to visit our Lenten "wellspring," and then proceed to gather in a circle in the chancel, and then proceed to the chancel to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew in the circle for those who prefer to be seated.*

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: We 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 (insert)

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

*see page 6*

### \*BENEDICTION

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## MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

**Olivia Olaffson** is a proud Nashville native, graduated from Tufts University in 2023, and is now a new elementary school teacher in Boston. She is an avid reader, mandolin player, and major history buff. She is excited to join the First Church community and continue her faith journey in a joyful, loving, and inclusive community.



### 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.



# OPENING HYMN

## 4 Come, Living God, When Least Expected

1. Come, liv - ing God, when least ex - pect - ed, when minds are  
 2. Come now, as once you came to Mo - ses with - in the  
 3. Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet us as viv - id

dull and hearts are cold, through sharp - ning word and warm af - fec - tion  
 bush a - live with flame; or to E - li - jah on the moun - tain,  
 truth and liv - ing Lord, ex - plod - ing doubt and dis - il - lu - sion

re - veal - ing truth as yet un - told. Break from the tomb in which we  
 by si - lence press - ing home your claim. So, let our minds be sharp to  
 to scat - ter hope and joy a - broad. And we will share his ra - diant

hide you to speak a - gain in start - ling ways; break through the  
 read you in sight or sound or print - ed page, and let us  
 bright - ness, and, blaz - ing through the dread of night, il - lu - mi -

words in which we bind you to res - ur - rect our life - less praise.  
 greet you in our neigh - bors, in ar - dent youth or mel - low age.  
 nate by love and rea - son, for those in dark - ness, faith's de - light.


WORDS: Alan Gaunt, 1991

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, *Cinquante psaumes en françois*, 1543, rev. 1551



RENDEZ À DIEU  
 98.98 D





## My Life Flows On in Endless Song 427





1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.  
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv-ing.  
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!


I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?


*Refrain*


No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

Baptist minister and educator Lowry was editor of *Sunday School Songs*.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

87.87 w. refrain

# CLOSING HYMN

325

## Now Let Us from This Table Rise

1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re - newed in  
 2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to spread the  
 3. To fill each hu - man house with love, it is the  
 4. Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion - God, to choose a -

bod - y, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live a -  
 Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the steps of  
 sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be - gan to  
 gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac - cept with

gain, his self - less love has made us whole.  
 Christ, at one with all in hope and need.  
 do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.  
 joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968

MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;  
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

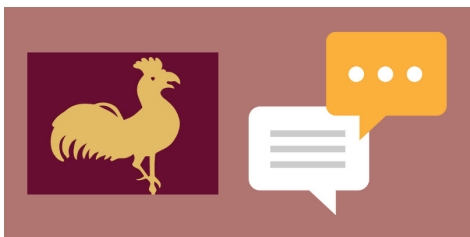
PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
 LM

## 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.
- We pray for Mark Destler and his family as they mourn the loss of Mark's father Mac Destler, who died unexpectedly, yet peacefully, on Thursday, March 27.
- We pray for Lisa DiNardo as she mourns the loss of close family friend Loretta Les, who died peacefully on March 28 at the age of 99.
- 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.
- We pray for the hundreds of Venezuelan men who continue to be 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 also pray for Rumeysa Ozturk, a Tufts graduate student detained by ICE and jailed 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 future of our democracy, as we witness alarming abuses of power.
- We pray for all those impacted by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar that killed over 2,000 people.
- 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 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 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.
- 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.

<b>TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH</b>
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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 sh



We are thrilled to offer a new way for those worshipping online to connect with First Church! We now have a chat feature enabled through Vanco, our electronic giving program. When you click on the livestream, you are invited to log in with the same email and password that you use for giving, or set up your access directly on the livestream

site. If you need assistance with your login information, reach out to Karen McArthur via email: [karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:karenmc@firstchurchcambridge.org). We look forward to building our connections as an online community during worship!

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 a short rehearsal in the Chapel after worship, then plan to arrive early on Palm Sunday to prepare our musical offering for worship.



7th and 8th graders from First Church and Old South Church meet for a session of their year-long sexuality education curriculum.

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.](#)**





## LENT AT FIRST CHURCH

### 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!



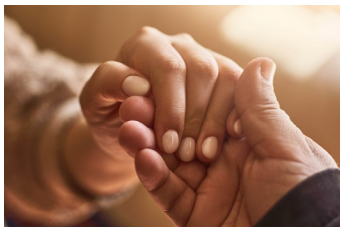
### Easter Flower Donations: Please respond by Friday!

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 this coming 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.

### In Memoriam

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



### Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting

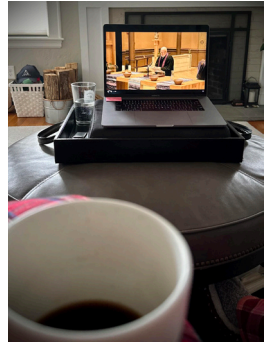
**Tuesday, April 15, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom**

Please join our conversation among Graceful Agers about the joys, growth opportunities, challenges and losses that accompany aging. If you would like to learn more (including our Zoom link), please reach out to Linda Ziebell ([lindaziebell@comcast.net](mailto:lindaziebell@comcast.net)) or Martha Mueller Cook ([marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com)).

## PALM SUNDAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### **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.



### **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. We welcome 6-8 volunteers to spend 20-30 minutes helping to set up or clean up after the meal. [Please sign up here](#) (or just turn up!).

### **Young Adults: Discovery Brunch** **Sunday, April 13, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.** **Grafton Street Pub, Harvard Square**

Anyone 20-35 (or thereabouts) is invited to a special Discovery Team conversation for Young Adults after the Palm Sunday service. We'll gather at the back of the Sanctuary and head to brunch at Grafton Street Pub to share our insights on life at First Church. Newcomers welcome!





## 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**

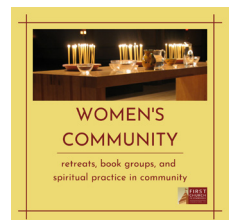
For many years in the 2010's, First Church families with young children would gather every other Tuesday evening in Sage Hall for a simple pasta potluck dinner. Parents would linger over dinner as kids raced around our basement playspace on tricycles or built towers with blocks. Deeper reflection and 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) or Sue (susanreynolds235@gmail.com) to learn more and borrow a book.

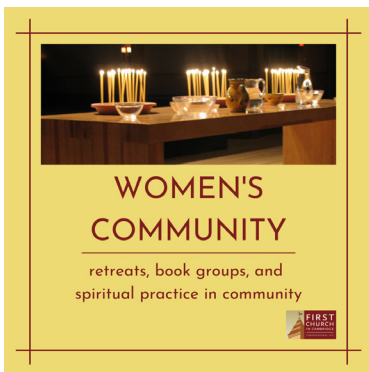


## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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!



### Spring & Summer Clothing Donations for the Friday Café

Donations should be bagged, labeled "Friday Café," and left at the church office at 11 Garden St., Cambridge, during regular business hours. Please check our [Donation Guidelines](#) to find out more about what we can (and cannot) accept for distribution.





# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, April 7

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Care Group for the Caregivers, via Zoom

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

## Tuesday, April 8

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

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

## Wednesday, April 9

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom  
7:15 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room

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

## Thursday, April 10

- 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

## Friday, April 11

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

## Saturday, April 12

- 2:00 p.m. Memorial Service for Perry Neubauer, Sanctuary and via livestream

## Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
10:00 a.m. Discovery Team Conversation with Our Livestream Community, via Zoom  
10:00 a.m. All-Church Palm Sunday Breakfast, MJH  
10:55 a.m. Palm Procession on the church lawn, to Morning Worship, Sanctuary & via livestream  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH  
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common  
12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well  
7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith Through the Confirmation Curriculum, Harter Rm.  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



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First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC  
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org) • [www.firstchurchcambridge.org](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org)



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