

Eastertide
May 4, 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
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 5

May 4, 2025

Liturgist

Lisa McCarty, *Deacon*

Preaching Today

Mike Solberg, *Interim Senior Minister*

Assisting in Worship

Sarah Higginbotham, *Director of Communications & Christian Formation*

Emma Mitchell, *Pastoral Associate*

Lee Prouty, *Facilities Manager*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Bulletin Cover Image sunrise design by Perry Neubauer

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: An Update on Violence in DRC, Harter Room & [via Zoom](#)
- 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 & Cake Reception, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Listening Session for People of Color at First Church, Harter Room
- 12:15 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
- 1:30 p.m. OWL Closing Ritual & Reception with families, MJH
- 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

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.

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!

*“Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything.
People kill one another over idols. Wonder makes us fall to our knees.”*

— Gregory Of Nyssa (c. 335 – 394)

VOLUNTARY

Vater unser im Himmelreich

Samuel Scheidt

*HYMN 238

The Church’s One Foundation

*GREETING

Lisa McCarty

L: Come friends, old and new, children of God,
experience the indwelling wholeness of God’s steadfast love.

C: May we be open to that wholeness this day!

L: Gather in the light of the resurrection,
and bask in the presence of the Risen One.

C: May we bask in his light this day!

L: Open your hearts to the mystery of the Spirit,
who creates a community like no other.

**C: May we learn to be that community,
journeying together with joy in our hearts,
firmness in our values,
and openness to the beautiful diversity of human life.**

L: Our Triune God, our ancient and ever-present hope, is with us,
making all things new!

C: Amen!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Eden’s Song

Mark Schweizer

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 C-28

God's Forgiveness Waits

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

Sarah Higginbotham

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. They will return to worship to take part in Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Acts 9:1-9

SERMON

Mike Solberg

*HYMN 414

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emma Mitchell

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Please bring your bulletin as you come forward with your offering. We will form a circle on the chancel, including the front row and several chairs for those who prefer to be seated for Communion-in-the-Round.

*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

Alleluia

William Boyce

*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

SHARING THE FEAST

*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.
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 BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus’ way of compassion, justice, and peace are welcome at this table.
For those worshiping via the livestream, please take and eat. For those here in the Sanctuary,
please receive the elements as they are brought to you in the circle.*

***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)**

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

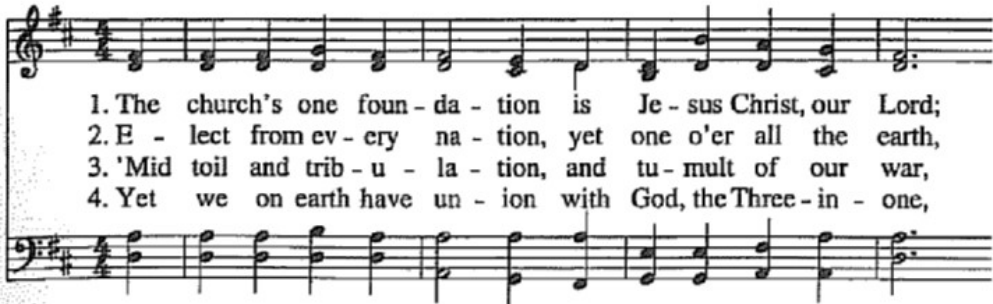
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***LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR EMMA**

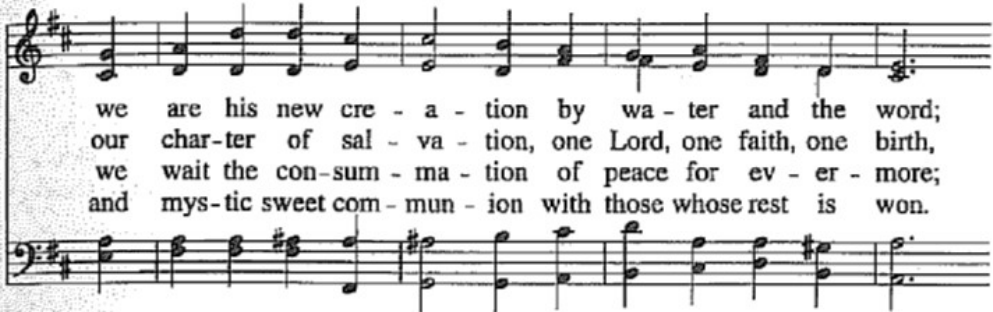
***BENEDICTION**

The Church's One Foundation

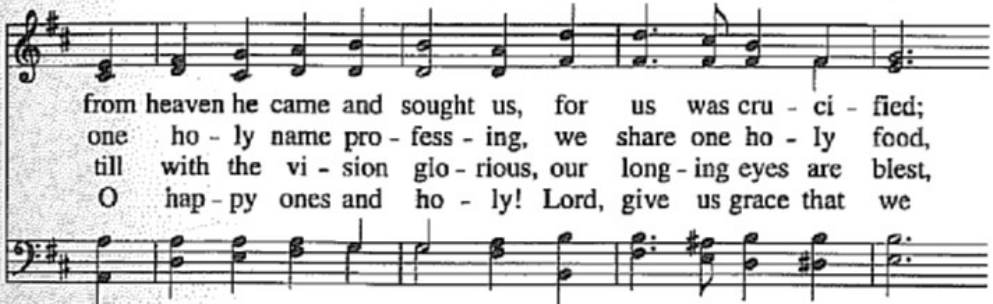
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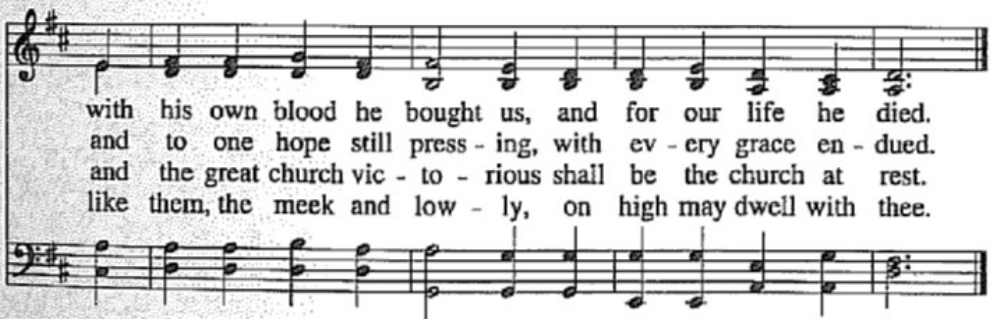
1. The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, our Lord;
 2. E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4. Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - one,



we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 our char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.



from heaven he came and sought us, for us was cru - ci - fied;
 one ho - ly name pro - fess - ing, we share one ho - ly food,
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blest,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we



with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.
 and to one hope still press - ing, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

PEACE HYMN

C-28

God's Forgiveness Waits

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

The first system of the hymn features a vocal melody in the treble clef and piano accompaniment in grand staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "God's for-give-ness waits, pa-tient as God a-lone, work-ing up-on the".

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "hu-man heart like wa-ter drip-ping on a stone; ——— like".

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

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "wa-ter on a stone, wear-ing the stone a-way, God's mer-cy calls un-".

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

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "to it-self the hard-ened heart that can-not pray. The".

PEACE HYMN

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

The first system of the hymn features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff. The lyrics are: "heart that can-not pray will some-day praise God's name with ev-ery voice on". The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, while the piano accompaniment uses chords and moving lines in both hands.

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

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "earth un-til the stones them-selves God's grace pro - claim. Praise". The piano part includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the final measure of the system.

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

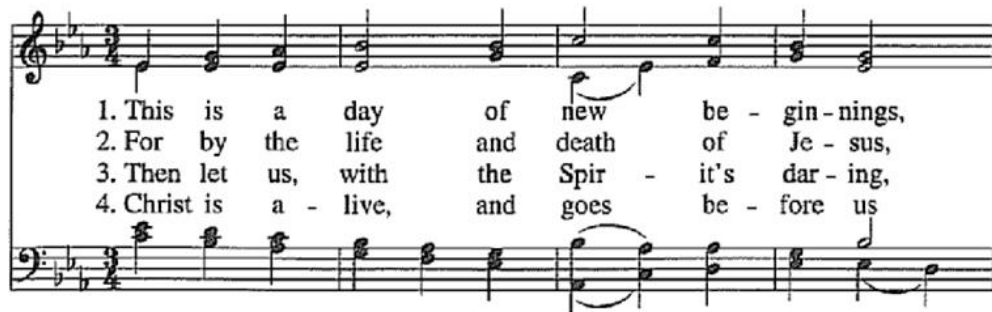
The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God! the time-less one, for God's for-give-ness waits, e - ter-nal, ten-der,". The piano accompaniment features a variety of chord textures and moving lines.

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

The fourth system concludes the hymn. The lyrics are: "age-less, true, to save the world that God cre - ates." The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord in the right hand and a sustained bass line in the left hand.

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

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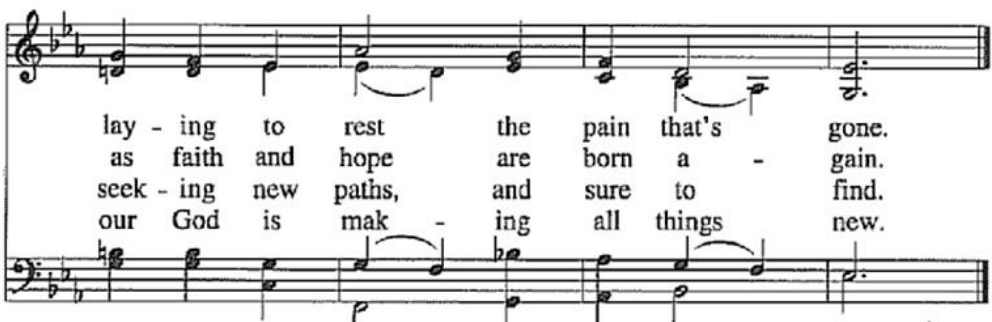
1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us



time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 love's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to show and share what love can do.



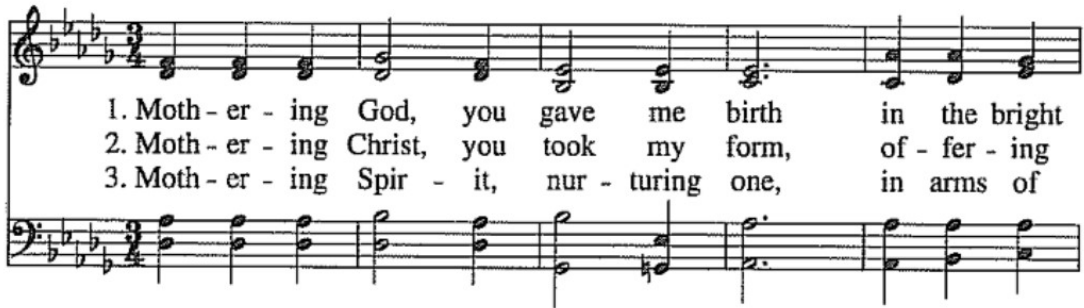
time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - f'rence
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings -



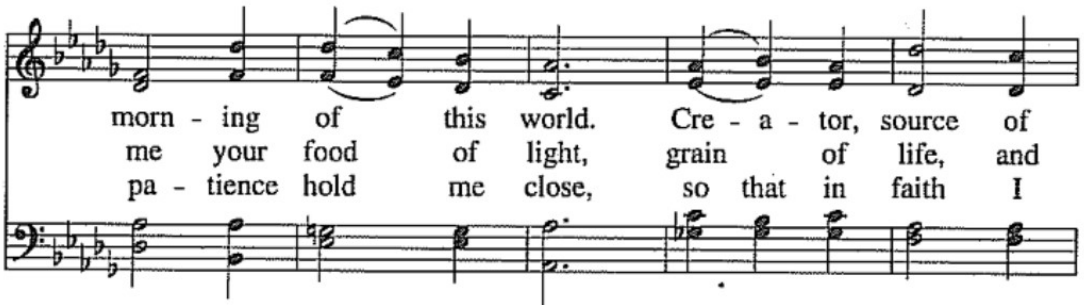
lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

84



1. Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
 2. Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
 3. Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - turing one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of
 me your food of light, grain of life, and
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I



ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Julian of Norwich (1342-1419); adapt. Jean Janzen, 1991
 MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874

MARYTON
LM



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 Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

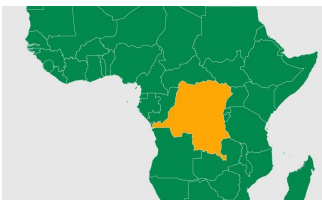
You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or with the QR code.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Alice Napoleon and her family as they mourn the loss of her father James Napoleon, who died after a difficult struggle with Parkinson's Disease.
- We pray for First Church friend Ted Hansen, who is recovering from skin graft surgery after being badly burned.
- We pray in thanksgiving for the life of longtime First Church member George Battit, who died peacefully on April 25 at the age of 97, and we lift up his wife Judy and their family in this time of loss.
- 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 thousands of people who have been detained and/or illegally removed from the US without due process. We pray for their families, and for all those who are living under the daily threat of detention. 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 pray for all those who are experiencing economic uncertainty in these times of change and upheaval.
- 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.
- We pray for people around the world trapped in cycles of violence and war, especially in Gaza, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. We pray for all who are grieving, as we continue to bear witness. We pray especially for the people of Kashmir, as tensions rise between the governments of India and Pakistan.
- 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



Adult Formation: An Update on Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Sunday, May 4, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom
Join First Church friend Amani Mataboro Tom to hear how the violent situation in DRC continues to unfold, and how the search for critical minerals has been fueling the conflict.

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 and cookies. Today we send off Pastoral Associate Emma Mitchell with cake and all our best wishes for her growing family, and we look forward with joyful anticipation to Emma's return to her pastoral vocation with us later in the fall. All are welcome!



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 Senior 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 of insights that will help guide our search. ***There will also be a session via Zoom, on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. See the website calendar for details.***

Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., The Well and MJH (at 1:30 p.m.)

The 7th and 8th graders of First Church and Old South Church complete their OWL journey today, first with a brief session on self-care, followed by a closing ritual and reception with families.



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

FAITH & LIFE GROUPS



Faith & Life Group: Care for the Caregivers

Mondays, May 5 & 19, and June 2, 16, 30, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

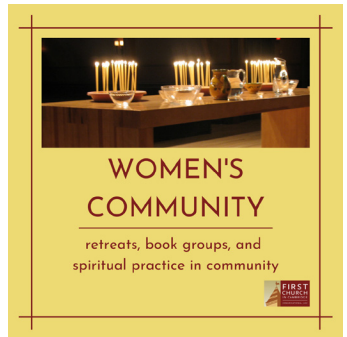
Caring for spouses, parents and other aging loved ones is challenging on many levels. This group offers emotional support, practical advice, and a sense of community for caregivers. Whether you're managing health issues, navigating long-term care options, or balancing work and family responsibilities,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

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!



Weekly Biblical Justice Prayer Call

As part of our relationship with Pentecostal Tabernacle Church in Central Square, Cambridge, some of us gather with members of PT for a weekly online Biblical Justice prayer call. Typically, one person offers a reflection on the theme of Biblical Justice and then suggests a few prayer points. 2-3 people on the call volunteer to pray extemporaneously about the prayer points. It has deepened our prayer life and



our sense of being part of a broader beloved community. If you are interested in joining the prayer call, please reach out to Alex (alex@steiner-evoy.org) or Meredith (meredithMquinn@gmail.com) The calls are Tuesdays from 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

GBIO Cambridge/Somerville Listening Session

Tuesday, May 13, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

St. Paul AME Church, 37 Bishop Allen Drive, Cambridge

Get to know other leaders at Cambridge and Somerville congregations! This is the second in a series of conversations bringing together local members of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) to learn more about each other, our congregations' needs, and a shared vision for a local community that supports all its members.



GBIO Organizing Trainings

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO) is holding trainings throughout May and June on how to build power to fight injustice. GBIO believes that power comes from creating relationships within and across congregations. Come learn how, and join other people of faith to build collective power for common good. Register at: bit.ly/m/gbioidates



Continue Support for The Transitional Wellness Center (TWC)

The City of Cambridge is planning to shut down dozens of shelter beds at the TWC starting June 30, 2025. Local providers and advocates say the city has no credible plan for serving the unhoused individuals starting July 1, and they are advocating for continued funding of the TWC. As a member of the First Church Cambridge community, you can show your support for

the individuals who are at risk of losing shelter by contacting Cambridge City Council members (CityCouncil@cambridgema.gov) and the Cambridge City Manager (yihuang@cambridgema.gov). Tell them our community should prioritize meeting the health and safety needs of all its residents, including the poor and marginalized. Encourage them to find resources needed to continue the life saving and affirming shelter being provided by the TWC.

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.



TRANSITION 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 Hastings Common. 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!



Discovery Team Conversation

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!](#)

TRANSITION 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

TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

A Letter from the Moderator

May 1, 2025

Dear Friends,

The time has come to take the next step in the search for our next Senior Minister. Nominations are now being taken for our Senior Minister Search Committee. Here's a short reminder of where we're headed in the transition process:



May: **The Discovery Team** continues their research via assemblies, small group gatherings, and individual interviews. If you haven't yet been to one of their sessions, try to make the next one and add your voice! Make sure to fill out their congregational survey [here](#).

In the meantime, [nominations](#) are made for the **Search Committee**, who will be chosen by the Moderator, approved by the Executive Council, and presented for the entire congregation's confirmation vote. The committee will comprise 7-9 members from all walks of life at First Church. Each member will bring distinct skills and perspectives; all will have a dedication to the future of First Church, and the quality of our future pastoral leadership. Some members will be long time leaders, including veterans of past searches, and others will be newcomers taking their first-ever leadership role. We are lucky to be working closely with the Reverend Katie Omberg, the Bridge (interim) Area Conference Minister, and a former Ministerial Intern at First Church!

June 22, 2025: At a **special congregational meeting on June 22 at 12:30**, the Discovery Team presents their findings as a comprehensive **written report** to the congregation, answering to the best of their abilities "**what are the current needs, challenges, and opportunities of First Church?**" At the same meeting, the Search Committee is presented to the church for a **confirmation vote**.

Summer: The Search Committee works to create the **Church Profile**. This is a public facing statement of what we're looking for in a Senior Minister, based on the needs of the congregation, as reported by the Discovery Team.

Fall 2025: The Church Profile is posted, and the Search Committee begins reviewing candidates for our next Senior Minister, who will likely start sometime in 2026.

TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

Serving on a Search Committee is demanding, challenging, and potentially one of the most rewarding experiences in church leadership. The committee will need wisdom, curiosity, and a strong grounding in how God is calling us to move forward. If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Search Committee, please [submit this form](#), or speak directly with me before May 22. In addition to nominations, conversations with staff, lay leaders, and the Discovery Team will help inform the final committee presented to the congregation in June.

Yours,
Phil Servello-Jones, Moderator
moderator@firstchurchcambridge.org





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 5

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Care for the Caregivers, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Cross Purposes, via Zoom

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

Tuesday, May 6

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, May 7

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Cafe Donor Appreciation Event, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group, To Live in the World as Prayer, via Zoom
- 7:30 p.m. GBIO Core Team Meeting, via Zoom

Thursday, May 8

- 7:00 p.m. Listening Session for People of Color at First Church, via Zoom

Have a church program or event to promote?

Friday, May 9

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

Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Sunday, May 11

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 10:00 a.m. Parsonage Listening Session, Harter Room and via Zoom
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes, Library & The Well
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



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