



Morning Worship

October 12, 2025



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.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Adoration

Florence B. Price

***HYMN 380**

We Are Not Our Own

***GREETING**

Sara Hendren

- L: Siblings in the Spirit, from whatever land has held you, welcome!
Here, may we cross the divisions of society that keep us apart.
- C: Here, may we find the love and solidarity of Christ in one another.**
- L: Here, may all who long for healing find rest and strength.
- C: Here, may all who feel outcast find community and belonging.**
- L: Siblings in the Spirit, come gather in,
- C: And let us join as equal partners in God's service.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace

Traditional, arr. P. Sykes

RESPONSIVE READING OF FIRST CHURCH'S LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Noël Grisanti

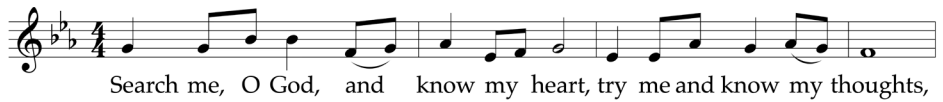
- L: We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting
on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland
of the Massachusett people.
- C: We acknowledge that this land is unceded
and remains sacred to the Massachusett and others.**
- L: We acknowledge and deplore the violence and erasure
perpetrated upon Indigenous peoples and their lands
in the name of this country, and by our First Church forebears.
- C: In addition, we grieve and repent of First Church's complicity
with the living legacy of settler colonialism and slavery.**
- L: We also repudiate the 15th century "Doctrine of Discovery"
that shamefully offered a legal and theological rationale
for centuries of colonization, land theft and genocide
by our Christian forebears.

All: We consider this land acknowledgment
very much a “work in progress” as we continue to listen
and learn about our history and work towards healing and repair.

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SUNG PRAYER



SILENCE



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray:
C: **Most merciful God,**
we confess that we have strayed from your way,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Grant us true repentance, and hearts eager for the work of repair.
Through the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!
C: **And also with you!**

*HYMN 281

Spirit of the Living God

*MUTUAL BLESSING

Adults: May God be with you there.
Children: And may God be with you here.

**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.*

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to a combined Church School class. Students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Luke 17:11-19

SERMON

Boundaries Redrawn

Noël Grisanti

*HYMN (insert)

An Outcast among Outcasts

see page 5

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mike Solberg

PRAYERS OF 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

Wondrous Love

Trad. arr. P. Sykes

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, the source of life and birth,
Praise God, the Word who came to earth,
Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame,
All glory, honor to God's name! Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN 353**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

A Pleasant Thought

Florence B. Price

Today's Worship Leaders

Noël Grisanti
Sara Hendren
Lee Prouty
Mike Solberg
Peter Sykes

Pastoral Intern
liturgist
Facilities Manager
Interim Senior Minister
Music Director

New to First Church?

Consider filling out a **welcome card** ([online](#) or on the small clipboards) to get connected.

OPENING HYMN

380

We Are Not Our Own

Unison



1. We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu - man
 2. We are not a - lone. Earth names us: past and
 3. Through a hu - man life God finds us; dy - ing,
 4. There - fore let us make thanks - giv - ing, and with
 5. And if love's en - coun - ters lead us on a
 6. Let us be a house of wel - come, liv - ing

leaves on na - ture's grow - ing vine, fruit of man - y
 2. pre - sent, peo - ples near and far, fam - i - ly and
 liv - ing, love is ful - ly known, and in bread and
 4. jus - tice, will - ing and a - ware, give to earth, and
 way un - cer - tain and un - known, all the saints with
 6. stone up - hold - ing liv - ing stone, glad - ly show - ing

gen - er - a - tions, seeds of life di - vine.
 2. friends and stran - gers show us who we are.
 wine re - minds us: we are not our own.
 4. all things liv - ing, lit - ur - gies of care.
 prayer sur - round us: we are not a - lone.
 6. all our neigh - bors we are not our own!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1987

MUSIC: Brian Wren, 1987; harm. Fred Graham, 1987

YARNTON

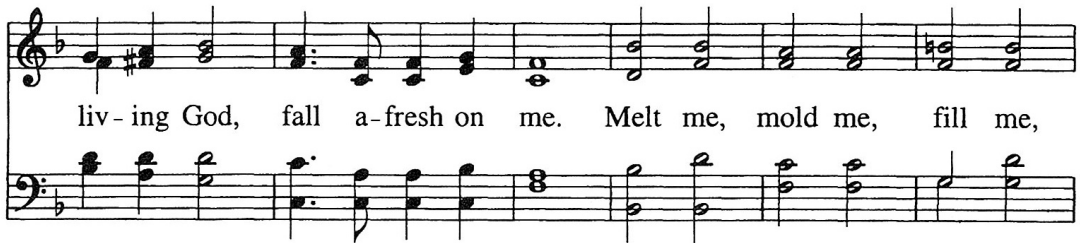
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281

Spirit of the Living God



Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me; Spir - it of the



liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,



use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON
75.75.875

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Christian Music Publishing

An Outcast among Outcasts

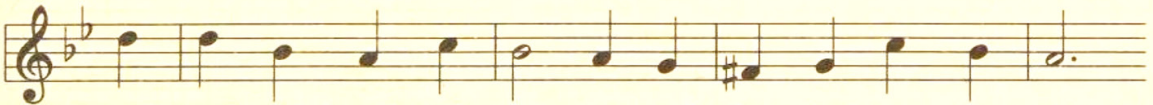
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1. An out-cast a-mong out - casts, dis - missed with dou - ble scorn,
2. An out-cast a-mong out - casts, where three were cru - ci - fied,
3. For out-casts a-mong out - casts the bound - aries are re - drawn,



be - lit - tled by the la - bels: "un - clean" and "for - eign born" —
de - rid - ed by the oth - ers as they hung side by side —
by words, "Your faith has saved you," by cross and Eas - ter dawn.



came back with thanks for Je - sus, and then went on his way:
came back from death with pow - er, God had the fi - nal say:
The dis - tant longed - for cen - ters of pow - er, peace, and care,



An out-cast a-mong out - casts showed grate - ful faith that day.
An out-cast a-mong out - casts shows God to us to - day.
where life is free to flour - ish, are found now ev - ery - where.

WORDS: Richard D. Leach (Matt. 27:38, 44; Mark 15:27, 32; Luke 17:11-19)

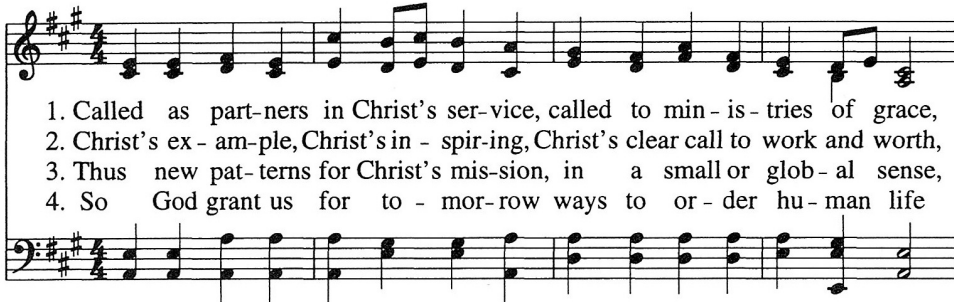
MUSIC: Welsh melody

LLANGLOFFAN

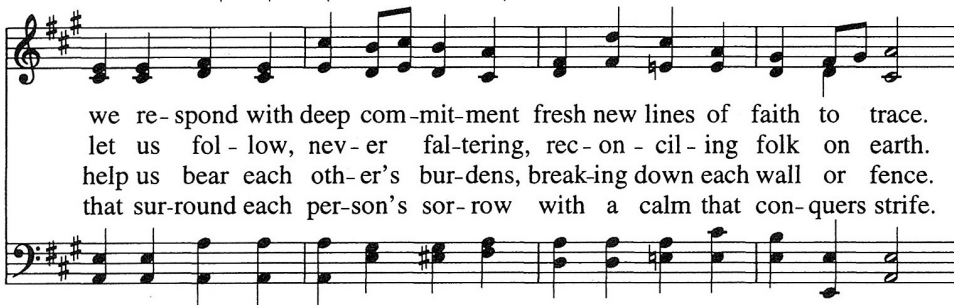
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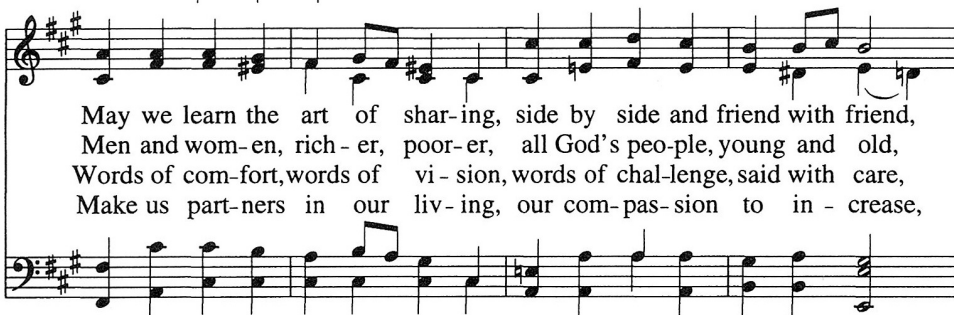
353 Called as Partners in Christ's Service



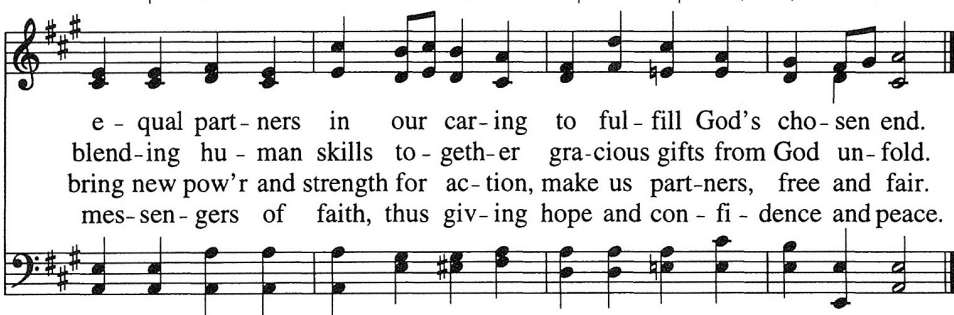
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



we re-spond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 that sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-que-ers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



e-qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 bring new pow'r and strength for ac-tion, make us part-ners, free and fair.
 mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

WORDS: Jane Parker Huber, 1981, alt.
 MUSIC: John Zundel, 1855

BEECHER
 87.87D

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Claire Morgan and her family as they mourn the loss of her mother Dana Hunt, who died on Thursday, October 2.
- We pray for Lya, a newcomer to First Church, who is living with Lupus and severely reduced kidney function.
- We pray for a friend of the church undergoing treatment for advanced cancer, and for her 12-yr-old son, feeling all the stresses of the situation.
- 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; Katy Bauer, Sunnessa Schettler's mother, who is experiencing COPD; and Keith Manville, Kirsten's father, who has atypical Parkinsonism. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Betsy Opitz; Jeff Morgan, Gaylen's brother; Tim Schoenfield, Henry's brother; Louise Higginbotham, Sarah'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 all those impacted by the federal government shutdown, including those who are losing their jobs and those who are concerned about looming cuts to health care subsidies.
- We pray for the moral courage of our political leaders, in particular in the places where Immigration and Custom Enforcement agents are intensifying their unlawful campaigns of violent detention, disappearance, and deportation, including here in Massachusetts. We pray for all who are living in an increased state of terror due to these actions, and that all of us may have the strength to take action and to bear witness to our neighbors in need.
- We pray for US cities under threat of militarization by our federal government, including Portland, Oregon, and Chicago, Illinois.
- We pray for all those touched by gun violence across our country. In the name of Jesus Christ, we condemn all violence, politically motivated and otherwise, whether exercised by those in power or those seeking to resist such power. May the love and justice of Jesus guide us all in this time.
- 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 pray for people around the world trapped in cycles of violence, especially all the innocent victims of the deadly power games of political rulers: in the Middle East; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We pray with hope for the people of Gaza as Israel and Hamas take steps to exchange hostages and move toward a ceasefire.
- We continue to pray for our earth and for all creation in the face of the climate crisis.
- We pray for all those giving and receiving care, compassion, and needed services from First Church's homeless ministries, both in the First Church Shelter and at the Friday Café. We continue to pray and work for a just society where housing is recognized as a human right.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Multigen @ 10

Today, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Come, one and all, to this experiential formation hour for all ages. Sarah Higginbotham will help us connect with folks we may only know by face through games, songs, and activities that allow us to share more deeply with each other.



Register Now for Fall Faith & Life Groups

Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests. If you are looking for a way to dip your toes into the life of our church and stay connected outside of Sunday Worship, this is for you! Please register for a specific Faith & Life group [here](#). After registering, you will be contacted by the leader.

Registration extended to Monday, October 13!

Questions? Please reach out to Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) or the leader of the group directly.

- **Walking the Camino de Santiago**
with Jan Jeffers Lo and Johanna Wendelin
- **Reflecting on *Miracles and Wonder: The Historical Mystery of Jesus* by Elaine Pagels**
with Martha Mueller Cook
- **Rooted Resilience: Grounding and Growing with Nature-Informed Practices**
with Stefanie Haug
- **Caring for the Caregivers**
with Stefanie Haug and Amy Matias



*read full descriptions
and register here*

Night Song

Sunday evenings, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

A worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset, Night Song is a hybrid offering of First Church for in-person attendance in the Sanctuary and viewing via livestream or listening at another time on the Night Song YouTube channel.

[Learn more about Night Song.](#)



COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH



Family Night

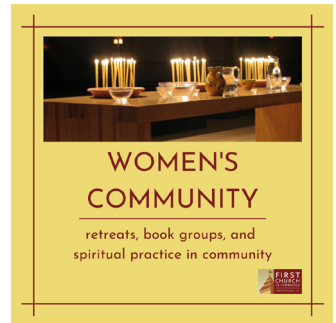
Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., Sage Hall

We provide pasta and red sauce, you bring a side dish or dessert to share. All are welcome, especially children with their parents and caregivers. Please let Meredith know how many are coming by emailing: familynight@firstchurchcambridge.org. No RSVP is too late! We eat in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) so that kids can play freely after dinner.

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, October 14, 6:30-7:45 p.m., via Zoom

Please join us for this month's book discussion of Virginia Evans's *The Correspondent*. This novel is described by a small bookstore owner this way: "The Correspondent is an homage to the written word. As Sybil writes her letters, we journey through her life. Through her grief, her friendships, her family, her loves, and her regrets, we are gifted an indelible character." We will have a lot to talk about, for sure! All who identify as women are welcome. For questions or to receive the zoom link, contact Alex Steinert-Evoy: alex@steinert-evoy.org



Breaking Bread Together: Stewardship Meals This Fall

Building on the success of our summer gatherings, the Stewardship Committee is organizing a few more meals to help foster community, connection, and a sense of belonging. A few folks have already kindly agreed to host; now we just need to find attendees to join in! If you would be interested in sharing a meal and connecting with about 8-10

others from First Church, please express your interest by [completing this form](#). All you need to do is indicate your interest, and the Stewardship Committee will follow up to confirm the date, time, location, and coordinate a potluck sign-up!

COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH



First Church at No Kings in Boston

Saturday, October 18, Boston Common

Please join First Church folks and friends to head to Boston Common for the NO KINGS IN BOSTON event. We will leave from the church lawn at 11:00 a.m. and take public transportation to Boston. If you would like to join us there, meet us at 12:00 p.m. at 138 Tremont St (The Cathedral Church of St.

Paul). [Register here](#) with No Kings AND [complete this very short google form](#) to let First Church organizers know you'll be joining us. You can also use the google form to let us know that you'll be rallying in another location. Be a part of this bigger movement!

Family Choir Rehearsals

Sundays, October 19 & 26, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Chapel

Do you like to sing with others? Have you heard that research shows how singing in a group can boost health and happiness? First Church folks of all ages and experience levels are warmly invited to join the Family Choir for a few rehearsals leading up to a musical offering in our All Saints Worship on November 2. Grab a coffee and cookie after worship on two Sundays in late October and head to the Chapel to learn a simple old-timey hymn with Sarah Higginbotham.



Healing Service

Sunday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

At our periodic healing services, we offer an opportunity to reflect together on God's healing peace and to participate in a simple healing ritual involving a brief prayer, laying on of hands,

and—for those who wish—anointing with oil, an ancient Christian practice. We invite forward all who would like to participate. For those who prefer to remain seated, there will be music and a time for individual prayers.

A Conversation about the Crisis in Gaza

Sunday, October 19, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

A number of First Church folks began meeting earlier this year as a Faith & Life Group to explore issues of peace and justice in the Holy Land. Begun as an opportunity to educate themselves, the group now feels called to

bring the discussion to the wider congregation. Members of the group will share their personal reflections, and information will be shared about a resolution regarding the situation in Gaza that was passed this summer at the UCC's General Synod. All are warmly invited to come listen, learn, and reflect on how God may be calling us to respond as a congregation.



COMING UP AT FIRST CHURCH

Joining Sunday, October 26

Have you been thinking about making First Church your “Yes,-this-is-where-I-belong” church home, by formally becoming a member of the church? While everyone is welcome to participate in (nearly) all aspects of church life, membership publicly shows your commitment and your connection (and allows you to vote in congregational meetings, woohoo!). It is a recognition that following Jesus Christ is not simply an individual affair, but also involves intentional community. [See here for more information](#) about how we at First Church think of church membership.



If you are ready to join on October 26, here are four steps to follow:

- let [Pastor Mike](#) know you intend to join;
- review the new member questions and our church covenant, [found here](#);
- by the end of Tuesday, October 21, [fill out this information form](#), including a short bio to introduce yourself to others; and
- gather in Hastings Common (just through the door by the Children’s Book Corner) on October 26 at 10:15 to receive flowers and name tags and review the flow of the service.

If you have any questions or would like to talk more about membership or about Joining Sunday, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Mike Solberg](#).

First Church Shelter presents

The 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards





Sunday, October 26
12:30-2:00p.m.
Margaret Jewett Hall
11 Garden Street, Cambridge

The First Church Shelter staff and the Shelter Oversight Committee warmly invite everyone to this year’s annual celebration of those doing the good work of care and compassion in the world. Enjoy a delicious lunch and learn more about the worthy organizations receiving the 2025 Mitch Snyder awards.

CALENDAR

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL

389 YEARS
ON THE WAY

1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 5

Today's Events

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Multigen @ 10, Margaret Jewett Hall
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m. Church School: Combined Church School Class, Library
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

The Week Ahead

Monday, October 13 - Church Office & Building Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

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

Tuesday, October 14

- 6:00 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall
6:30 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 15

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
6:00 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Friday, October 17

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, October 19

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Bible Study @ 10, Harter Room & via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship: Healing Service, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in MJH
12:30 p.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
12:30 p.m. A Conversation about the Crisis in Gaza, Harter Room & via Zoom
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream



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Visit firstchurchcambridge.org to:

- Read all the [latest news](#).
- See our [events calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.
- Find transcripts and recordings of [sermons](#).
- Complete a [First Church Communications Request Form](#) to promote a church event.