



World Communion Sunday

October 5



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

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!

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood
Issa Bibbins, piano

William Cowper

*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*GREETING

Lisa DiNardo

- L: Beloved of God, come gather in!
Together, let us grow closer to God.
- C: We enter now with all that we are, our stories,
our hopes, our yearnings, our fears.**
- L: God embraces all of it- all of you!
- C: Thanks be to God for that!**
- L: Siblings in the Spirit, God's heart is open,
and God's invitation is deep and wide.
- C: No matter where our journey has taken us in the past,
we now begin anew to grow closer to God. Alleluia!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Jesu Mfumu

Bantu hymn from Zaire

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

Mike Solberg

Adults: May God be with you there.

Children: And may God be with you here.

Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

L: Let us pray.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit, and speak to us now.
Open our minds to receive your wisdom;
open our hearts to receive your truth;
open our bodies to receive your hope;
Draw us nearer to you by your word of grace and truth. Amen.**

**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.*

READING

Psalm 137

SERMON

Mike Solberg

***HYMN 453**

In Deep Despair I Cry to You

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noël Grisanti

MINISTRY MOMENT

Adam Weiss, Susan Neubauer, Linda Ziebell

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

Issa Bibbins

***DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**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.**

SHARING THE FEAST

MUSICAL INVITATION

There Is Room at the Table

**There is room at the table for you
There is room at the table for me
There's a feast that's prepared
By the blood that was shed
There is room at the table for you
There is room at the table for me**

Music and lyrics by Issa Bibbins

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

- L: Now, O God, with grateful joy, we remember Jesus,
his daring love, his open table.
We remember that he called us friends,
- C: and that he called us to follow him.**
- L: We remember that he gave us peace,
- C: and called us to be peacemakers.**
- L: We remember that he embodied Divine justice,
a renewal of individual hearts and systems of power,
- C: and called us to this work of repair.**
- L: We remember that, in his resurrection,
he is the first sign of the renewal of all creation,
- C: and we long for all creation to be united
and share in that renewal,
with not one person, not one being,
not one thing, not one atom, left behind.**
- All: Thanks be to you, Holy One. Amen.**

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 proceed to the outer edges of the Sanctuary to gather in a circle, making space to include the front pew in the North Transept ("the family section") in the circle for those who prefer to be seated

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: We thank you, God, for your nearness to us,
for 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,
and the will to serve you all the days of our lives.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***HYMN (insert)**

The Household of God

see page 6

***BENEDICTION**

*The flowers this morning were donated by Lindsay O'Donovan
in remembrance of her husband Brian O'Donovan,
whose life was celebrated in our Sanctuary in October 2023.*

Today's Worship Leaders

Issa Bibbins
Lisa DiNardo
Noël Grisanti
Lee Prouty
Mike Solberg
Peter Sykes

Adam Weiss, Susie Neubauer, and Linda Ziebell

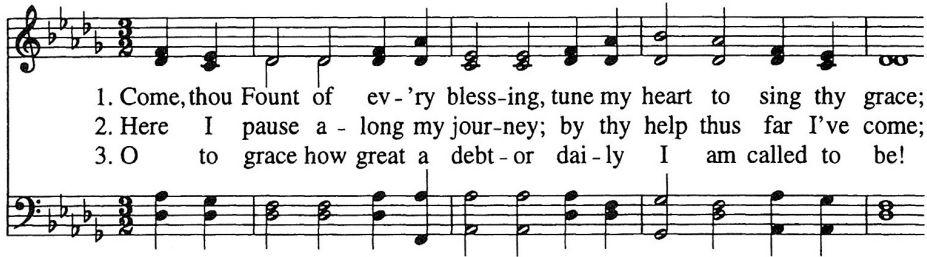
*guest musician
Deacon Liturgist
Pastoral Intern
Facilities Manager
Interim Senior Minister
Music Director
offering a Ministry Moment*

New to First Church?

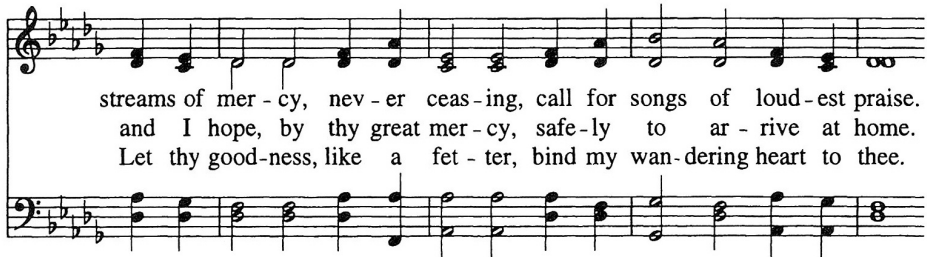
Consider filling out a **welcome card** ([online](#) or on the small clipboards) to get connected.

OPENING HYMN

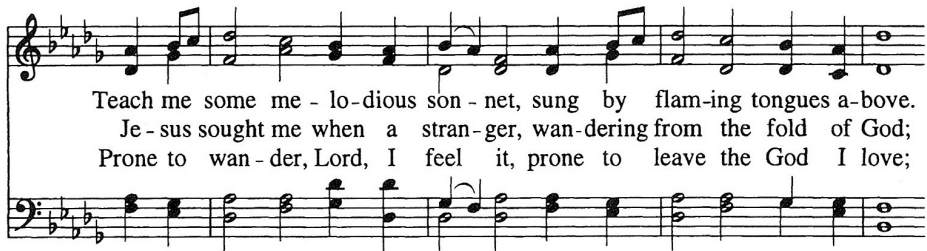
407 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



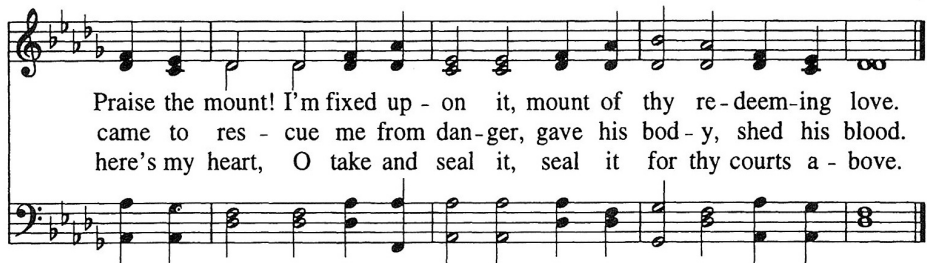
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2. Here I pause a - long my jour-ney; by thy help thus far I've come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am called to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy great mer - cy, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
 came to res - cue me from dan - ger, gave his bod - y, shed his blood.
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1758, alt.

MUSIC: Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813

Robinson, an English barber, became a Calvinistic Methodist preacher and, later, a Baptist minister. His text has been sung to this American folk tune since 1813.

NETTLETON

87.87D

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

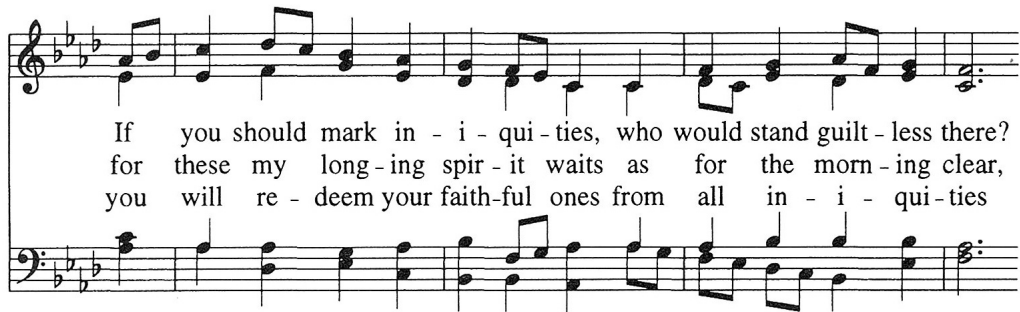
© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI
Christian Music Publishing

453

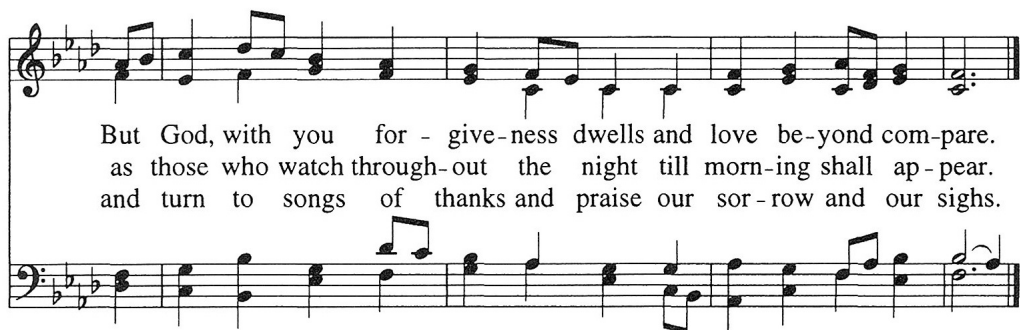
In Deep Despair I Cry to You



1. In deep des - pair I cry to you— O hear my voice, my prayer.
 2. The sound-less whis-per of your voice, your hov-ering pres-ence near,
 3. Be - cause your love is stead-fast, God, on you our hope re - lies;



If you should mark in - i - qui - ties, who would stand guilt - less there?
 for these my long - ing spir - it waits as for the morn - ing clear,
 you will re - deem your faith-ful ones from all in - i - qui - ties



But God, with you for - give-ness dwells and love be-yond com-pare.
 as those who watch through-out the night till morn-ing shall ap-pear.
 and turn to songs of thanks and praise our sor-row and our sighs.

WORDS: Psalm 130; para. Joy F. Patterson, 1991, alt.

MUSIC: John Logan's *Sixteen Tune Settings*, 1812; harm. C. Winfred Douglas,
The Hymnal, 1940

Charles Winfred Douglas, an eminent Episcopal church musician and clergyman,
 was music editor of the *New Hymnal*, 1916 and *The Hymnal*, 1940.

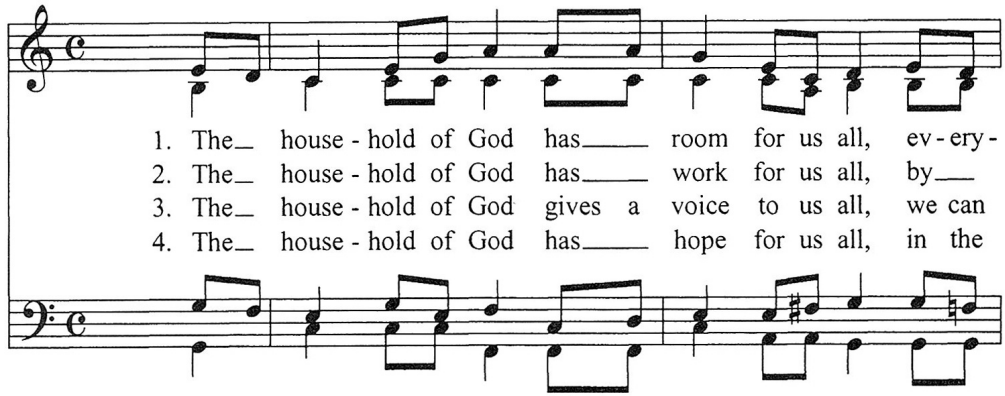
MORNING SONG
 86.86.86

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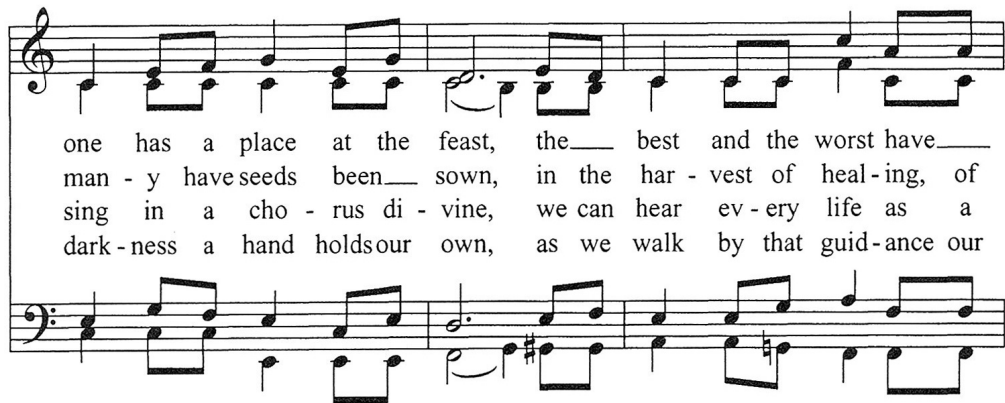
CLOSING HYMN

C-20

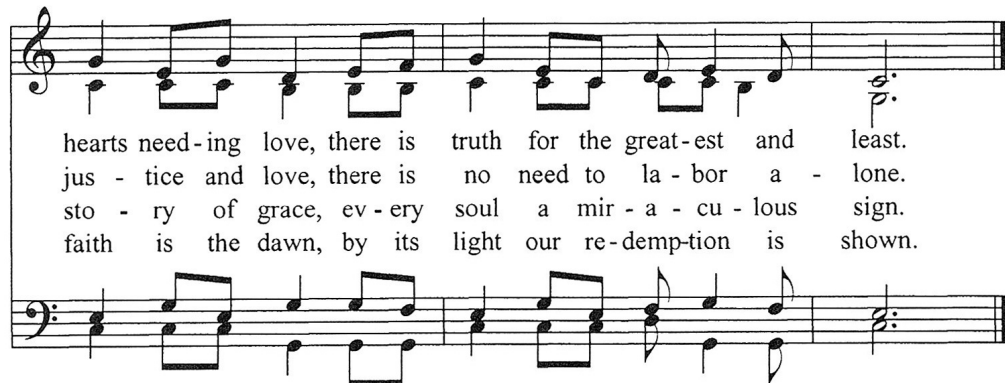
The Household of God



1. The_ house - hold of God has___ room for us all, ev - ery -
2. The_ house - hold of God has___ work for us all, by___
3. The_ house - hold of God gives a voice to us all, we can
4. The_ house - hold of God has___ hope for us all, in the



one has a place at the feast, the___ best and the worst have___
man - y have seeds been___ sown, in the har - vest of heal - ing, of
sing in a cho - rus di - vine, we can hear ev - ery life as a
dark - ness a hand holds our own, as we walk by that guid - ance our



hearts need - ing love, there is truth for the great - est and least.
jus - tice and love, there is no need to la - bor a - lone.
sto - ry of grace, ev - ery soul a mir - a - cu - lous sign.
faith is the dawn, by its light our re - demp - tion is shown.

WORDS: John Evans-Klock

MUSIC: Peter Sykes

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Diane Coutu, as she continues to recover from a fall experienced during our worship service last Sunday.
- We pray in celebration with proud parents Nora Willcutts and Martha Williams for Craig Williams and Bella Perez, who were married here on Saturday, September 27. May God bless Craig and Bella in their life together!
- We pray for Claire Morgan's mother Dana Hunt, who is now in the hospital for ongoing cancer-related care and will likely be transitioning to hospice care.
- 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 all those touched by gun violence across our country, including the LDS congregation in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and the community of Southport, North Carolina. 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, including in Gaza; in Ukraine; in Haiti; and in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 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.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders

Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 8th and 9th graders continues today with a session entitled “Creation Meets Evolution.”



Bible Study @ 10: “Hello, Bible. My name is _____.”

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

Feel like maybe you would like to get a better feel for what the Bible has to do with your life and the world today? Here’s a chance to take a first step in that direction. Pastor Mike is helping us get to know the Bible

better as part of our 10:00 O’Clock Hour offerings this fall. These sessions are for everyone, no matter your Bible background. The Bible has a fascinating personality, so take the first step in getting to know it: Hello Bible. My name is _____.

Friday Night Bible Study Reunion

Welcome FRNB Reunion attendees! The Friday Night Bible Study began in 1987 by Clifford Lo and Jan Jeffers Lo with a group of young adults who wanted to have a Bible study at First Church. While the years have passed, and many folks moved from Cambridge, new friends have joined in and the study group has continued. This weekend, 23 past and present members of the Friday Night Bible Study have gotten together for a reunion at Bethany House of Prayer in Arlington. As we have done over the last 38 years, we have again shared meals, studied the Bible, reflected on our lives in God and had a great time of fellowship together. Former First Church friends and members have traveled from Colorado, Texas, North Carolina, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and around Massachusetts to visit together again and worship at First Church. We celebrate our time together with Chris & John Evans-Klock, Randy & Martha Koenig Stone, Richard John, Ann MacCormack, Anne & Tim Hoffman, Ellen Rohan Ball & Craig Ball, Phil LaFollette, Carolyn Thompson, Carolyn White, Johanna & Mike Wendelin, Beth Loomis, Jeff Wilson-Braun, Steve & Lydia Headley, and Jim Greaney & Chris Reynolds. Praise God!



Community Resistance Gathering

Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

First Church is offering a space for resisting! Join with First Church folks and friends as we connect to the growing national movement of non-cooperation with our government’s authoritarian efforts. We’ll recap our August gathering, continue deepening our community connections, and identify ways to be in relationship to the network of actions and organizations that are “being the change” in the greater Cambridge area. Looking for ways to find out about local opportunities for action? Check out our [Community Resistance Resources](#).

REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Monday, October 6, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Josephine in Somerville

Gather with our vibrant young adults group for a casual meet up over drinks (and probably snacks). Folks in their 20s and 30s are welcome if you are feeling new or are a seasoned young adults attendee. It's a great way to meet new friends and ask questions about faith, life, and First Church. Please RSVP so we know to expect you or to learn about upcoming events: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org



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. ***Please register by Friday, October 10!***

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

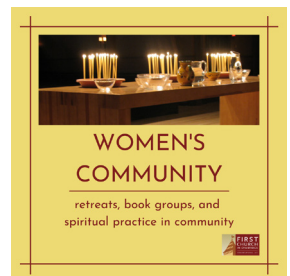


*read full descriptions
and register here*

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



REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH



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.

The 2025 Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards

Sunday, October 26, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Margaret Jewett Hall

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

Today's Events

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Bible Study @ 10,
Harter Room & via Zoom
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common
12:30 p.m. Community Resistance Gathering, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

The Week Ahead

Monday, October 6

- 4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Young Adults: Faith on Tap, Josephine, Somerville

Tuesday, October 7

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

Wednesday, October 8

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom
3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom
5:30 p.m. Faithful Resistance Steering Team, via Zoom
7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

Friday, October 10

- 12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, October 12

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Christian Formation: Multigen @ 10, MJH
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in MJH
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

Monday, October 13

Church Office and Building Closed in Observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day *scan for online bulletin*

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL

389 YEARS
ON THE WAY

1636 – 2025



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.