



Thanksgiving Sunday

**FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE**

Congregational 1633-1636
United Church of Christ
Garden and Mason Streets
Cambridge, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
381 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 - 2 0 1 7

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

Grounded in God • Growing in Community • Acting in Love

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, we are thankful that you are with us today, and we hope that you will stay for a bit after worship for refreshments and conversation. First Church is an open and affirming, just peace congregation of the United Church of Christ. If you'd like to know more about us, please introduce yourself to one of the ministers after church and explore our website at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

Children of all ages are welcome in our worship. Picture books, children's Bibles, and activity packets can be found in the Children's Book Corner located by the door to the parish building (to the right of the chancel). Children may visit the Book Corner at any point during worship. Nursery care for infants and toddlers is located through that door, up the ramp, and through the fire door. Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to use the newly-completed Hastings Common, just across the hall from the Book Corner door.

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available.
Please ask a greeter for assistance.

WORSHIP LEADERS November 19, 2017

Preaching

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Liturgist

Leslie Pelton-Cairns, First Church Member
Co-Chair, *for such a time as this* Campaign

Assisting with Worship

Karin Case, Minister
Karen McArthur, Minister of Stewardship
& Finance

Stewardship Testimony
Jason Whaley

Kate Lazyer, Minister of Street Outreach
Jen Bloesch, Ministerial Intern

Playing Organ and Directing Choir
Peter Sykes, Director of Music

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Toccata in F Major - J. S. Bach

***HYMN 526**

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

***GREETING**

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

- L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime
welcome to this household of grace!
- C: Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God
- L: Here, where we grow and share together in community and belonging
- C: Here, where we act together in love for a better world
- L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in!
- C: And let us praise the God of grace!

***WORDS OF WELCOME**

ANTHEM

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- L: Let us pray.
- All: Holy and beloved God, we give you thanks for this day,
and for its cycle of preparation and celebration, giving and receiving.
Lead us into your sacred space,
where we can confess our deepest fears
and share our failures and shortcomings.
Lead us into a place of quiet contemplation and bold hope.
Holy God, during this time of harvest and preparation,
Lead us to trust that there will always be plenty,
so that our connection with you is deepened

**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.*

and our relationships strengthened,
always in Jesus' name. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 426

I've Got Peace Like a River

BAPTISMS OF BENNETT COFFIN, ATTICUS HARMON, LILLIAN KROFT

THE PROMISES

Jen Bloesch

The Congregation's Promises

Marian Smith

L: Do you who witness this sacrament promise these children and parents
your love, support and care?

All: We do!

L: Will you help them grow in faith and witness with them to the love and
mercy of Christ?

All: We will, with the help of God!

BLESSING OF THE WATER

Dan Smith

BAPTISMS

*FINAL BLESSING

L: Friends, let us ask God for a blessing!

All: Holy God, Creator of us all,
give to these children strength for life's journey,
courage in the time of trial,
the joy of faith, the freedom of love,
and the comfort of everlasting life.
And may the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all forevermore. Amen.

The Church School (preschoolers - 7th graders) is now invited to leave for church school classes. Teachers will meet their students at the side door or in the Narthex to accompany them to their classrooms. The children will return to the sanctuary for the final blessing.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Esther 14:10-17

SERMON Dan Smith

HYMN (insert) *for such a time as this*

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS Karin Case

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD Kate Layzer

L: God be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Please pray this prayer and address God 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.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY Jason Whaley

INVITATION TO GIVE AND PLEDGE Karen McArthur

OFFERTORY Locus Iste Anton Bruckner

This place was made by God, a priceless mystery; it is without reproof.

BRINGING FORTH OUR GIFTS AND PLEDGES

Please place your offering for this week along with your 2018 stewardship cards in any basket on the table and then gather in a large circle. Bring your bulletin, so we can conclude our worship in a circle on the chancel.

***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 OF OUR GIFTS AND PLEDGES**

GOING FORTH

***COMMUNAL BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF OUR BUILDING**

***BENEDICTION**

***HYMN (Insert)**

Let There Be Life in This House

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For all who are working for climate justice, especially 350 Mass, the Better Future Project, UCC leaders, and all who have been organizing at the Statehouse this week to stand against the development of new fossil fuel infrastructure in our state.
- For the communities of Tehama County, California; Sutherland Springs, Texas; and in the aftermath of recent shootings, and for all who are impacted by gun violence.
- For villagers in Iran and Iraq, impacted by this week's devastating earthquake, for relief workers there, and for all people recovering from recent natural disasters, including wildfires in California, earthquakes in Mexico, and hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Texas.
- For the Rohingya people of Myanmar, who are experiencing horrific atrocities as they are displaced from their home, and for all the world's refugees.
- For undocumented immigrants seeking sanctuary in houses of worship around the country, including First Church Amherst and University Lutheran Church in Harvard Square. May our federal government find a path of compassionate justice for all immigrants seeking safety, security, and well-being in our nation.
- For all political leaders, including our current administration, that they may know God's spirit of wisdom and justice in these troubling times.
- For ourselves, that we may open our hearts and minds to all those we disagree with or don't understand, and find the grace to listen, connect, and join together in our common humanity.

Portions of the YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED section of the bulletin are omitted in the online version to protect the privacy of those mentioned. To find out who we are praying for this week, please contact the church offices at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or by calling 617-547-2724.

If you would like us to include a prayer request, please contact Dan Smith, Karin Case, Francine LaChance, or Kirsten Manville by Wednesday morning, or fill out a prayer request card found in your pew.

A PRAYER FOR TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Observed Annually on November 20

Holy One, As we prepare for next week's
Transgender Day of Remembrance our hearts are full.

We call to mind persons young and old, of every race, faith,
and gender expression who have died by violence.

We remember those who would not hide, or did not pass, or did pass,
or stood too proud. Some we know; others we have read about;
others we will never know about. Yet each one was made in Your own
image. We mourn their senseless deaths. We give thanks for their lives.
We pray for the strength to carry on their legacy of vision, courage,
and love.

We remember also and mourn the loss transpersons who have taken their
own lives. In death may they be welcomed back into the fullness of Your
life and love.

We honor transpersons amongst us, those we know and those we don't.
We pray as a community for resolve to root out the injustice, ignorance,
and cruelty that allow despair to flourish. Help all persons come to un-
derstand that Your creation has many faces, many genders, and many holy
expressions.

Blessed are You, Gracious God, in whom no light is extinguished.

— *adapted from Rabbi Reuben Zellman, Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of home and harvest, today we come to you with full hearts, rejoicing in your generosity that knows no bounds.

We celebrate the new spaces in our church home, grateful for all who have made them possible, and we look forward to your Spirit guiding us as we use them to do your work.

On this Thanksgiving Sunday, we pray for those who are hungry, those who are poor, and those who have nowhere to call home. Help us to do what we can for these your children.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, confident in your promise, relying on your presence, and grateful for your peace that passes all understanding.

–Beth Spaulding, First Church Deacon



TODAY

10 A.M.

11 A.M.

12 NOON

Walk Through

Dedication: During Worship
and after Luncheon

Luncheon

FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WALK THROUGH 10:00 a.m. Meet in the Hastings Common Join us for a tour of our new spaces, inside and out, and for an in-depth look at all the progress we have made in this enormously complex project that has impacted every level of our building inside and out! Together we can step back, marvel at what the Spirit has accomplished in our midst, and give thanks to God (and again to Don Johnson).

for such a time as this

DEDICATION AND LUNCH,

Please join us as we dedicate our new spaces, name our new meeting space, and celebrate the generosity which enabled the beautiful vision we had for our building and ministry to come to fruition. Both during worship and the lunch following we will express our joy and gratitude as we come to the end of the renovation project.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

THE WAY FORWARD - STEWARDSHIP 2018 Today we will bring our Pledge Cards forward during the Offertory, and hope to have each member's participation in this important covenant of support. If you have questions, please speak with any of the ministers or a member of the Stewardship Committee.

ALL-CHURCH LUNCHEON REPLACING NEWCOMERS LUNCH THIS MONTH Today, 12:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Often on the third Sunday of the month we have a newcomers' gathering. This Sunday, newcomers are welcome to join in the broader celebrations at our all-church luncheon. If you have any questions about joining or getting more engaged with First Church Cambridge, you can email Minister Karin Case at karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org

CONFIRMATION CLASS AFTERNOON RETREAT Today, 1:30–4:00 p.m., King's Chapel, 58 Tremont Street, Boston First Church's 8th and 9th graders are walking together on the journey of confirmation this year. While we meet twice monthly for two-hour sessions on some of the BIG topics of faith formation and tradition, we are also experimenting with a series of three Sunday afternoon retreats in collaboration with the Confirmation classes of Old South Church, First Church Somerville, and Memorial Church. Today the four groups will meet at King's Chapel in Boston for an interactive event on Christian service and discipleship. Included in the afternoon will be a hands-on project to benefit several local programs that feed the hungry, including our own Friday Café.

2017 BOSTON TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (TDOR) Today, 6:00 p.m., Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont Street, Boston The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) memorializes individuals who have died throughout the world in the previous year because of anti-transgender hatred. Each November the worldwide transgender community turns its attention to family, friends, and loved ones lost to violence and prejudice. A tradition inspired by the Allston, MA, vigil for Rita Hester, a trans woman murdered in 1998, this day has become the worldwide rallying point for a community long under siege. We will gather in the Cathedral for a brief service, with members of the community speaking about the importance of the day and remembering those who have been taken from us due to transphobia and violence. During the service volunteers will read the names of trans people who have been murdered in the past year. If you would like to volunteer to be involved in the service please contact Persia: Persiabrewer@gmail.com. After the vigil we will share in a potluck meal at the Cathedral.

NIGHT SONG, SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary Spend some time at the end of the day nourishing your soul at Night Song. Vox Equalis (treble voices) and Daryl Bichel offer ancient and contemporary chant and improvisation by candlelight, providing space for contemplation and prayer.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FAMILY NIGHT November 21 & December 5, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Families with young children (infants through elementary school, typically) are warmly invited to gather in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) for a pasta-and potluck supper. Pasta and sauce will be provided; you bring a salad or side dish or dessert to share. Questions? Contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)

PIES FOR THE FIRST CHURCH SHELTER AND FRIDAY CAFÉ Share the warmth of Thanksgiving with people going through tough times by donating delicious pies to friends at the First Church Shelter and the Friday Café. The Shelter is requesting 6–8 pies to be dropped off in the Shelter by Wednesday, November 22. Pies for the Friday Café can be labeled and dropped off in the church kitchen on Wednesday or Friday. Thank you for your support!

“LIFE TOGETHER” TUESDAY November 28, 5:30 p.m., Hastings Common and Margaret Jewett Hall We had hoped that our new kitchen would be ready to launch a November round of our all-congregation “Life Together” Tuesday Dinners. Alas, we will need to hold off on making it a series until 2018, but we would like to get a taste and will have one Tuesday Dinner on November 28. Plan to join us in our new Kitchen, Hastings Common, and Margaret Jewett Hall, as we begin to live into our new space and new life together! We’ll provide the pasta and water! You bring the rest (salad, side, or dessert, cider). We can break bread and begin to lay some groundwork for some intentional practices of how we serve and share meals in Christian community.

LOUISVILLE INSTITUTE PASTORAL STUDY PROJECT GRANT AWARDED Last week, Rev. Dan Smith received a \$15,000 grant for a project entitled “Remembrance and Reparation at First Church.” The project will dovetail with Dan’s upcoming 2018 sabbatical and the ongoing work of the congregation to examine its history of complicity with slavery. From the grant proposal: *“How can a 21st-century New England congregation publicly remember and own its historic complicity in the racial terrors of slavery? How can such a public remembrance process be leveraged to raise awareness of ongoing racial injustices while creating some specific, meaningful, systemic change that improves the lives of descendants of enslaved persons?”* To read the full grant proposal, please visit www.firstchurchcambridge.org/remembranceandreparation. Remembrance and Reparations is also the theme of a 10 am series currently being planned for January 14, 21 and 28.

VOLUNTEER FOR THE ADVENT WORKSHOP December 3, 12:30 - 2:00 pm, Margaret Jewett Hall Each year, we mark the first Sunday of Advent with a workshop of art and craft in Margaret Jewett Hall following Morning Worship. We are currently seeking volunteers to lead each activity. Instructions and supplies are provided; you simply learn the craft and teach others who visit your table. If you would like to help, please contact Sarah Higginbotham (shigginb@firstchurchcambridge.org)

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY CAFÉ HOLIDAY GATHERING, Tuesday, December 5, 6:30–8:30, Margaret Jewett Hall

Share the joy of the Friday Café with a friend or family member this holiday season! Invite someone you know to a festive gathering with special food and wine, stories and photos. Together we'll celebrate how far we've come, and spread the word to new friends about this inspiring ministry. This event is the kickoff to the Friday Café's first-ever fundraising campaign. As a First Church member, you already support the Friday Café through your annual giving to the church—no further gift needed. But you can make all the difference for us by helping widen our circle of support in Cambridge and beyond. Someone in your network would love to learn more about our model of transforming community. Who is that someone? Please invite them to be your guest on Dec. 5 for what promises to be a delightful evening, and plan to be there yourself, with your spirit, your stories, and your great ideas. RSVP today at www.thefriday.cafe. The Friday Café is a weekly community gathering space where neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity can relax and eat on Friday afternoons, and where people can get to know each other. Volunteers needed!

MONDAY NIGHT MEDITATION RESUMES December 4! Are you looking for a place to settle in for some silence and quiet reflection in the midst of a busy week? Or looking to begin your Advent season with intention? Discover an oasis of calm every Monday night from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in The Well (Room 22) beginning December 4. Whether you're interested in trying meditation for the first time or deepening your current practice, an experienced meditator or simply curious, all are welcome. This on-going series will meet every Monday night, except in the case of holidays and building closures. For more information or to receive updates about meditation at First Church, contact Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org

ADVENT MEDITATION RETREAT Saturday, December 9, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Sanctuary

Treat yourself to an afternoon of meditation and reflection as we begin the Advent Season. This two-hour retreat will feature sitting meditation, walking meditation, and sacred music under the apse (dome) in our beautiful sanctuary, followed by tea and refreshments (at 4 pm) in the newly-renovated Hastings Common. No meditation experience necessary. All are welcome. Please register by going to the church web site, <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org>, or by contacting Karin Case, karincse@firstchurchcambridge.org.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR, December 10, MJH Have you made your list for our Fair? Fair Day is one month away! You'll be able to buy something lovely for yourself and everyone on your list from over a dozen vendors. Remember that every dollar you spend at the Fair goes directly to the good causes the vendors represent.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

MUSIC LOVERS, SUPPORTERS OF COOPERATIVE METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES, AND THOSE INTERESTED IN INTERFAITH PROGRAMS, Today, 7:00 p.m. The world renowned pianist Kimball Gallagher will give a benefit concert to support CMM's programs of racial justice, interfaith understanding, youth programming, and clergy training. He will discuss the music he has found on his world tours. He is Director of 88 International, which fosters musical humanitarian projects with NGO's throughout the world. The event takes place in Berenson Hall, Hebrew College, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Tickets are \$30 for students and income-challenged; \$50 for the general public. You may register on Eventbrite at globalharmonymusic.eventbrite.com or by giving a check made out to CMM to Alice Kidder. Questions? call her at 617 276-6227. Thank you.

ENDING HOMELESSNESS: WHAT SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES DO DIFFERENTLY December 19, 6:15–8:15 p.m., Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 138 Tremont Street, Boston A Faith that Does Justice (AFTDJ) will be joined by guests Rosanne Haggerty and Fr. J. Bryan Hehir at their second Community Meeting for a conversation about the challenges related to homelessness in the United States, and what successful communities do differently to end homelessness. Ms. Haggerty and Fr. Hehir have decades of experience in the public sector, combining their passions for addressing social issues with unique strategies to unify communities. Register at: www.faith-justice-housing-homelessness.eventbrite.com.

NEW COATS NEEDED BY CITY MISSION, BOSTON Please donate NEW coats to youth of all ages without winter coats. UCC churches in the greater Boston area have been asked to set up coat drives. Starting next week, a box marked "City Mission" will be in the narthex. Kindly place any coats you purchase in this box during the next four weeks. If you wish to donate a gently used coat, for any age including adult, place it in the box marked "Used Coats." These will be given to Friday Café and Solutions at Work. Thanks to Katie Omberg for facilitating this drive for City Mission- Boston. For questions, please contact Claire Cocroft at claire.cocroft@gmail.com or Alice Kidder at flintkiddr@aol.com.

MUSIC OF FIRST CHURCH STAFF COMPOSER PATRICIA VAN NESS will be performed in by Capella Clausura, today at 4 pm at Eliot Church in Newton. For more information visit www.Clausura.org.

THE WEEK AHEAD

November 19, Thanksgiving, Dedication, and Pledge Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, Hastings Common
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, MJH
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Baptism of Lillian Kroft and Atticus Harmon and Bennett Coffin, Pledge Sunday, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (preschoolers - 7th grade)
- 12:30 p.m. *for such a time as this* Dedication Sunday Luncheon
- 1:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Retreat, King's Chapel, Boston
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, November 20

- 7:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting, New Meeting Room

Tuesday, November 21

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night

Wednesday, November 22

- 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, New Meeting Room

Thursday, November 25

Building, including Church office closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, November 26

- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary (No Christian Formation)
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts - Advent Calendars, MJH
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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Would you like to give to
First Church in Cambridge?
Here are easy ways to do it:



First Church Give



First Church Pledge

Give by Text: Text \$ __ to 617-841-8044



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CONGREGATIONAL, 1633–1636
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