



Regathering 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 Sage Hall, our basement play-space, or the Narthex in the weeks leading up to the completion of the Hastings Common.

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

WORSHIP LEADERS September 24, 2017

Preaching

Dan Smith, Senior Minister

Liturgist

Sara Hendren, First Church Member

Leading Worship

Karin Case, Minister

Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach

Tony Amoury Alkhoury and Jen Bloesch,

Ministerial Interns

Sarah Higginbotham, Director, Creative

Worship & Arts

Playing Organ and Directing Choir

Peter Sykes, Director of Music

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G Major

J. S. Bach

*HYMN 407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*GREETING

Sara Hendren

L: Beloved of God, whether you are here for an hour
or a lifetime welcome to this household of God's grace!

C: Here, where our lives are grounded in the hope, healing and power of God

L: Here, where we grow 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: Give praise to the One who searches and finds us wherever we are!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Eternal God

Richard Shephard

Eternal God,
the Light of the minds that know you,
the joy of the hearts that love you,
the strength of the wills that serve you,
Eternal God,
Grant us so to know you that we may truly trust you,
Grant us to love you that we may freely serve you,
to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

CONFESSING

INVITATION

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.*

SUNG PRAYER

Lord, Prepare Me To Be a Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you!
(Sing through twice.)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 445

Seek Ye First

BLESSING OF CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN AND TEACHERS

Sarah Higginbotham and
Dan Smith

(Children and teachers are invited forward to prepare for the transition to Church School classes.)

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Tony Amoury Alkhoury

READING

RESPONSIVE PSALM 139:1-6, 15-18

- L: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
C: **You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**
L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
C: **Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**
L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
C: **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**
L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.
C: **I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.**
L: Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
C: **My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.**
L: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

C: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
L: If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,'
C: Even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

READING

Matthew 7:7-11

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 86

The Lone, Wild Bird

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

*A LITANY OF BLESSING OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE YEAR AHEAD

Karin Case

L:O God, we give thanks and ask your blessing...

C: Keep us grounded, growing, and acting in your love!

CONCLUDING PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

I'm Gonna Sing

Traditional spiritual,
arr. Van Ryckeghem

I'm gonna sing when the Spirit says sing,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna pray when the Spirit says pray,
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

I'm gonna shout when the Spirit says shout (Hallelujah!)
and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

***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 352**

Go Forth For God

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE, Hymn 344**

Thuma Mina

*(The congregation is invited to join
in the singing of this response.)*

**Send me, Jesus, send me Jesus
Send me, Jesus, send me Lord**

Lead me, Jesus...

Fill me, Jesus...

**Thuma mina...
Thuma mina somandla**

VOLUNTARY

Fugue in G Major

J. S. Bach

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- We pray for all those impacted by the recent news of the dismantling of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). May our federal government find a path of compassionate justice for all immigrants seeking safety, security, and well-being in our nation.
- For all those affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria and for their loved ones, and for all those affected by the earthquake in Mexico City, and for all those living in fear of natural disaster.
- For the community of St. Louis, in the wake of another painful verdict and for our nation as it continues to wrestle with ongoing expressions of white supremacy, anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia.
- For all who have fled their home countries as a result of war and terrorism, and for clarity in responding to immigration crises around the world.
- For neighbors facing extreme famine in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen, and Nigeria.
- 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.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Migratory God, by Phuc Luu

Migratory God
who uprooted Abraham
and led him into a foreign land
provide rest for your people
the stranger and alien
the refugee and wanderer
the one seeking sanctuary
settling in an unfamiliar place

Migratory God
who travels great distances
to become human
and live among us
making a dwelling among us
help us see that we all are restless
searching and seeking
finding the place of being and belonging
to lay our heads
as you who had no place
except with your people

Migratory God
who has crossed borders and boundaries
to be born a stranger
fleeing from country to country
feet moving for miles, over desert lands
to the Jordan River
where you cross from one land to the other
in the waters of baptism
where you wash off
ties to nation and citizenship
so we might enter into a new
kingdom and country

Migratory God
who accompanies us in our journey
remind us of where we've been
from where we've come
so we might not forget
that we all traversed great distances
to find the place that our hearts seek to settle
that place all of us call home

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

REGATHERING SUNDAY, Today Our contractors are still doing some finishing work, which is why we are Regathering later than usual this year. After a summer of construction, it is time to reconnect—members, friends, and newcomers alike! Today we return to a full day of worship and fellowship, with Christian Formation activities at 10:00 a.m., Morning Worship at 11:00 a.m., Church School Classes at 11:20 a.m., and a lunch after worship in Margaret Jewett Hall. Feast on great food with friends old and new, and feast your eyes on our almost-finished project (the Dedication will likely be in mid-October).

FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS SIGN-UPS, Today, 12:30p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall Would you like an opportunity to get to know some new people at First Church? Are you looking for dynamic conversation and meaningful connections? Would you value an opportunity to think about how faith is relevant to “the rest of life?” This fall you are invited to join a Faith and Life Group. Each group will focus on a shared interest and will be led by someone with a passion for the subject. These groups are time-limited and designed to take place during October and November. Register online at: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/faith-life-groups#> More Faith and Life Groups will be coming soon.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE CAMBRIDGE INTERFAITH SANCTUARY COALITION (CISC) We are looking for additional volunteers to support our guest family living in sanctuary. This is a simple way to show your support and care. The coalition offers on-going volunteer training and we would be happy to answer your questions. Please contact Bappu Antony, josephantony@mail.com or visit the table in Margaret Jewett Hall following worship today.

“500”: A FOUR SESSION ADULT FORMATION SERIES FOR THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION Sundays, Today, October 8, 15, and 22 at 10 a.m. in Margaret Jewett Hall Join us as we dip into church history and celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will follow a series of readings and reflections offered through a study guide prepared by the the United Church of Christ's Still Speaking Writers' Group and edited by our previous Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Mary Luti. “This study guide celebrates the United Church of Christ's Reformation heritage by lifting up some of the Reformation's central claims. There is beauty here. And ugliness too. Inasmuch as ideas can thrill, these ideas are thrilling. Brace yourself.”—from the Foreword. We will have copies of the booklet available in church throughout September for a \$5 suggested donation.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION, Today Confirmands (8th/9th graders) and their parents are invited to an Orientation to Confirmation after worship at 12:30 p.m. We'll take our lunch to the New Meeting Room to learn about the year ahead, culminating in Confirmation Sunday on Pentecost in May 2018.

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 information.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MINISTERIAL INTERN In case you missed it, last week we welcomed Tony Amoury Alkhoury as our new Ministerial Intern this fall. Tony is joining Jen Bloesch who is returning for a second year with us. Tony is 33 years old and is from Homs, Syria. He graduated from Damascus University with a MSC in Clinical Pharmacy. He is currently a second year MDiv. candidate at Harvard Divinity School. After graduation From Harvard Divinity School he hopes to obtain a "green card," which would enable him to travel back and forth to help his church and people in Syria. Tony will be focusing at First Church on preaching and worship, adult formation and spiritual care and counseling, including work at the Friday Cafe. Please reach out and extend a warm welcome!

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

FALL ALL-CHURCH RETREAT Friday evening, September 29–Sunday midday, October 1, Craigville Conference Center, Craigville, Cape Cod First Church will host its Annual All-ages, All-church Retreat next weekend. Each family unit registered should have received an informational email from Sarah this past week. If you think you are registered, but did not receive that email, contact Sarah as soon as possible!

SHOP FOR THE FOOD PANTRY THIS WEEK Cooking oil? Instant coffee? Peanut butter? Cereal? Could you put these and maybe a few other things on your shopping list for the Rindge Towers food pantry? Next collection is Sunday, October 1. Remember: unbreakable, unopened, unexpired. Many thanks!

KNITTING CELEBRATION! Share food, fun, and fellowship with fellow knitters, Sunday afternoon, October 8, 2 p.m., Marian Smith's home in Arlington If you have been knitting hats for the Friday Café or would like to learn about this project, please join us for a celebration. Bring your knitting and your hats! We'll tally how many we've made and take them to the Friday Café for distribution. Contact Marian at msmith829@gmail.com or 607-748-0853 for details, or to arrange a ride from church.

FRIDAY CAFÉ VOLUNTEER TRAINING AND ORIENTATION, Friday, October 13, 1:00–3:00 p.m., New Meeting Room In anticipation of the opening of Season IV, the Friday Café will hold a training and orientation for new and experienced volunteers one week before Opening Day. This will be a chance to reconnect, prepare for the year, and do some skill building. Sign up at: signup.com/go/qOzFhdP. The Friday Café is a weekly community gathering space at First Church where neighbors experiencing homelessness and food insecurity can relax and eat. It's also a place of encounter, where people in different life situations can sit and talk. Learn more at www.thefriday.cafe

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION Please save the date. The next GBIO Delegates Assembly is scheduled for October 19 at 7 pm (locations tbd). This summer, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (in which First Church is a leading member) continued its work of organizing and advocacy, demanding meaningful criminal justice reform in this legislative session, safe communities for immigrants, and affordable housing and healthcare for all. We also continued efforts in our "Out of Many, One" campaign to raise a voice against hatred and violence in all forms. Following the events in Charlottesville, GBIO leaders also hosted an Interfaith Gathering for Unity, Love, and Strength at Temple Israel, in Boston, on August 18. Over 1,700 people attended, and an additional 4,500 tuned in via livestream. The event was attended by over 75 clergy, Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, Boston Police Commissioner William Evans, Police Chief William Gross, and other local dignitaries. If you are

interested in getting more involved with GBIO, please reach out to our Congregational Liaisons Will Erickson, wericks2002@gmail.com, or Ann McCann, ann.mccann44@gmail.com or Dan Smith, dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org.

THE WAY FORWARD, STEWARDSHIP 2017 This fall our Stewardship Committee will be starting its three-year campaign to set First Church on a more solid and sustainable financial foundation. Having just come through an incredibly successful capital campaign, our theme for this campaign is The Way Forward. On Sunday, October 22, we will launch our The Way Forward Silent Auction as a fun way to get a head start on our annual appeal! There will be entertainment, food, and special prizes for those who can bring the most guests who aren't already in your family! You'll be able to bid online through November 5. Stay tuned for more details, but know we have some fabulous items in the mix—including gift certificates to local eateries, tickets, artwork, and an overnight stay at the Sheraton Commander Hotel.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE Please see the Fall EVENT newsletter for a full update on progress. As you can see, the summer has brought a lot of it! The first phase of preservation and structural work is now complete. We have access to our new meeting room as well as as to Margaret Jewett Hall, and expect the new walkway to be completed soon. We are holding Sunday, October 22, as a tentative date for a for such a time as this Dedication Sunday! By that point, our kitchen should be ready to use. Thank you for your patience!

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

Give by Text:

Text \$ __ to 617-841-8044



First Church Pledge



First Church Give

HURRICANE RELIEF THROUGH THE UCC Our hearts and prayers go out to all impacted by recent hurricanes. The United Church of Christ is active in networks that meet immediate needs and focuses on long-term recovery that may well last 5 + years.

To learn how you can contribute to those efforts, please visit:

- http://www.ucc.org/disaster_hurricane_2017_relief
- or donate via our offering plate, online, or by mail

Please make checks payable to First Church in Cambridge, with Hurricane Relief in the memo.

100% of funds to the United Church of Christ designated for U.S. disaster relief are used for disaster relief and rehabilitation programming within the United States.

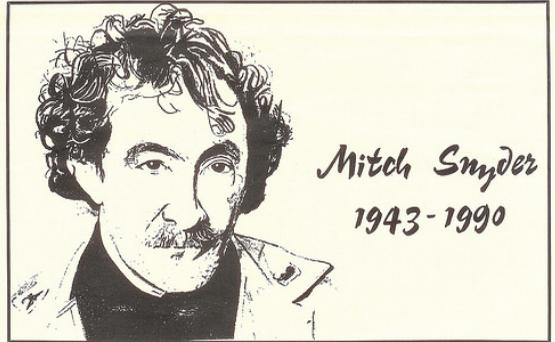
If you would like to give in a more targeted way: Former FCC member Jonathan Page, now pastor of First Congregational Church in Houston, has written to tell us of a fund to help UCC members in Texas who are struggling to cover hurricane losses. 100% of the funds will go to people in our churches who do not have the financial resources to meet their expenses.

Checks can be sent directly to First Congregational Houston (10840 Beinhorn Road, Houston, TX 77024) or to the South Central Conference UCC offices (3610 River Road, New Braunfels, Texas 78132) with a note in the memo line marked "Disaster Relief." You can also donate to the respective funds online at <https://goo.gl/vLSyed> for FCC or <https://sccucc.org/donate/>, for the South Central Conference.

SAVE THE DATES: FIRST CHURCH SHELTER CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

The First Church Shelter Committee and Shelter Director Jim Stewart invite all members and friends of First Church in Cambridge to join in recognizing and celebrating our thirty years of mission and service to the poor and homeless. The 2017 Mitch Snyder Awards will be presented to a number of individuals and organizations at each of the Anniversary events.

- **CELEBRATION IN THE BRAUN ROOM OF ANDOVER HALL, Friday, October 20, 7 p.m., Harvard Divinity School.**
- **2017 MITCH SNYDER LECTURE, Thursday, October 26, 6:30 p.m., Adams House, 26 Plympton Street, Cambridge** Corey Davis, National Health Policy Law Center; and Dr. Kimberly Sue, M.D., Ph.D., Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University, on "The Opioid Crisis 101 and What Must Be Done." The Mitch Snyder Lecture and Awards are given in memory of the selfless life and example of the late Mitch Snyder, of the Community for Creative Non-Violence, Washington, DC.
- **RECEPTION AT FIRST CHURCH Friday, October 27, 3:00 p.m.** Guest speaker: Marylou Sudders, Massachusetts Health and Human Service Secretary.
- **2017 DORIS BEAUVAIS LUNCHEON, Sunday, October 29, 12:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall** Guest speaker: Peter Canellos; Editor-At-Large, Politico, and former Metro and Editorial Page Editor, The Boston Globe, "Homelessness and Public Policy." The Doris Beauvais Luncheon and Lecture memorialize the life and leadership of the late Doris Beauvais, a member of First Church who played a significant role in First Church's acceptance of the challenge to offer shelter to the homeless.



THE WEEK AHEAD

September 24, REGATHERING SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
10:00 a.m. 500: Adult Formation Series, 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, MJH
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Regathering Celebration, Dan Smith, preaching
11:20 a.m. Church School: Opening Day classes for preschoolers-7th grade
12:30 p.m. Regathering Lunch, MJH
12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class Orientation for Parents and Students, New Meeting Room
3:00 p.m. Youth Group Kick-off, gather in church lobby
7:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, September 25

- 6:00 p.m. Staff Relations, New Meeting Room
7:30 p.m. Executive Council, New Meeting Room

Wednesday, September 27

- 9:30 a.m. Staff meeting, Dan Smith's Office

Thursday, September 28

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, New Meeting Room

Friday, September 29–October 1

- 8 p.m. First Church All Church Retreat at Craigville on Cape Cod

Sunday, October 1, World Communion Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. No Christian Formation
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, Karen McArthur preaching
11:20 a.m. No Church School Offerings
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

THE STAFF AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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**FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL, 1633-1636**

United Church of Christ

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