



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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



WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

*Grounded in God
Growing in Community
Acting in Love*

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.

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

New to First Church in Cambridge?

*Please take the time to fill out one of the pew cards
and place it in the offering basket during the service.*

Name tags are available at both the front and back entrances of the sanctuary.

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 and down the hallway (up four stairs to the door on the right). Fussy babies and their caregivers are invited to the Hastings Room, just across the hall from that same door, where the service is broadcast through speakers.

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
January 15, 2017
THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY *My Lord, What a Morning* Richard Billingham

*HYMN 439 *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*GREETING Barb Hume

L: Come, hoppers and seekers, builders and dreamers,
come to the dawning of God's light.

C: The light of healing; the light of mercy and grace.

L: Gather from north and south, from east and west:

C: Come be at peace in this place where all belong.

L: Come, children of light:

The world needs what we have come to find.

**C: We will sing the light together, pray the light together,
do the works of light together for the world God loves.**

WELCOME

ANTHEM *Behold That Star* Spiritual

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for strength, courage, and wisdom.

**C: God of Justice, whenever we settle for the way things are
instead of the way you would have them to be, forgive us.**

**Whenever we are paralyzed by fear or limited in vision,
increase our trust in you.**

**Whenever we offer charity, but fail to work for justice,
show us what your love requires.**

**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.*

**When our days become dreary,
and our nights darker
than a thousand midnights,
we believe that God is able
to make a way out of no way
and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows.
This is our hope for becoming a better people.
This is our hope for making a better world.
Amen! Thanks be to God!**

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Karin Case

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

Phil LaFollette

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD

Denson Staples

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 and address God in words most meaningful to your heart.)

**All: Our Father, 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

Rise up, Shepherd, and Follow

Spiritual

*DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heav'nly light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God, the Spirit, now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise! Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 467

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Benediction

Beverly Taylor

The Word is flesh and dwells among us! Glory to God in the highest!

VOLUNTARY

Great Day

Adolphus Hailstork

JEAN BELLOW Jean Bellow has been attending First Church since 2003, becoming a member in 2006. She has been involved a variety of FCC committees, most importantly as a member of the Building Beloved Community Group. Jean came to the Boston area in 1971 when she initially worked for the Children's Defense Fund and subsequently pursued a career as a Senior Manager, Advocate and Consultant in public and private Human Services agencies.

DAVE KIDDER joined First Church in 1993 and has been Moderator for the past two years. He and Alice have been active in Building Beloved Community and a number of other social justice initiatives. Before retiring in 2006, Dave worked at Abt Associates Inc. in Cambridge, managing Abt's health policy research practice for seven years.

LAURIE WILLIAMS has been a member of FCC for approximately 15 years. She has taught Sunday school, served on the Pastoral Care Team, Deacons and is currently vice moderator. She is trained as a nurse practitioner and is mom to Zach (20) and Ivy (13).

WORSHIP LEADERS

Reflections

Jean Bellow, *First Church Member*
Laurie Williams, *Vice-Moderator*
Dave Kidder, *Moderator*

Liturgist

Barb Hume, *First Church Member*

Directing the Choir/Playing the Organ

Lee Ridgway

Leading Worship

Karin Case, *Minister*
Jen Bloesch, *Ministerial Intern*
Denson Staples, *Ministerial Intern*

Call to Annual Meeting

Phil LaFollette, *Clerk*

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- * In this inauguration week. We fervently pray that God's wisdom, love, and justice may be made known to us and to our nation in the coming days. We pray especially for those who are feeling vulnerable, afraid or alone. May God's presence bring patience, strength and a renewed commitment to Christ's way of inclusive love.
- * For all those impacted by the shooting in the Ft. Lauderdale airport.
- * For our country. In the spirit of Dr. King and Civil Rights activists we seek bold and faithful responses to a culture of racism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, and other forms of hatred and fear. All those forced to flee their home countries due to war and terrorism; and we pray for clarity in responding to immigration crises around the world.
- * For people struggling with grief, illness, addiction or mental health concerns, job-related transitions, marital or relationship troubles, or loneliness.

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.

A SPACE BETWEEN

We have introduced a place for healing prayers. A space between is...

A space between us and God,

A space between us and each other,

A space between the world as it is and the world as it should be,

A space for silence and centering

A space for prayer and meditation

The table and chairs under the dome at the front of the sanctuary are intended for prayer. Please feel free to use this space at any point during the week when the sanctuary is unoccupied to pray whatever might be on your heart: prayers for yourself, prayers for another, prayers for the world. If you wish, write down a concern, prayer, or prayer request. Take it with you or leave it in the basket. Prayers will be collected regularly and lifted up by members of our First Church community.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

“LORD, PREPARE ME” — EXPLORING SANCTUARY AT FIRST CHURCH Today and Sunday, January 22, at 10:00 a.m., Hastings Room Join members of the Mission and Social Justice Team for an important conversation about how First Church can participate in the growing Sanctuary Movement. How can we be ready to offer or assist other congregations in offering sanctuary to those at risk of deportation or who are otherwise feeling unsafe in our current political reality. And, how can we find a sense of spiritual sanctuary for ourselves in the midst of political turmoil and upheaval?

NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON-NOT JUST FOR NEWCOMERS! Today at 12:30 p.m., Hastings Room Whether you're *new* to First Church, or you've been around awhile, please join us for this month's "Newcomers Luncheon." We'll talk about who we are as a church, ways to get involved, and to make sure newcomers have a chance to ask any questions you may have. We're trying something different this time and encouraging both members and newcomers to come together for a conversation about why our faith matters for us, our community, and our world. We hope this will be a space where newcomers can meet folks who are more familiar with our community and begin to get to know one another. At the end of the luncheon, there will be an opportunity to walk through the liturgy for those who are thinking of joining on Sunday January 22. All are welcome! A light lunch will be served and childcare is provided. The next Newcomers Luncheon will be on Sunday, February 19. Questions? Contact Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org.

HOST SOLAR ON YOUR ROOF AND HELP THE TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY
Today during coffee hour, Margaret Jewett Hall The Earth Stewardship Team will be tabling at coffee hour today with a representative from Resonant Energy. Their goal is to expand access to solar energy to low and moderate income homeowners (although all are welcome to apply) with zero monthly payments and no credit requirements. For more information on how this program works, please visit our website. The deadline to sign up for this cycle in Greater Boston is **February 1**.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at **7:00 p.m., Sanctuary** Join us for these contemplative and spiritually transporting candle-lit experiences of choral literature, ancient and contemporary chant, and instrumental music. There is no spoken word, no sermon—just the opportunity to experience the Divine through music, being still, and silent meditation. Tonight: Gregorian chant from the Liber Usualis. Lydian setting for compline by Daryl Bichel, Psalm 4, set by Patricia Van Ness (4 part). Hymn: Te lucis ante terminum, plainchant. Cum invocarem by Orlando di Lasso (6 part). Alma Redemptoris Mater by Gregor Aichinger (4 part). Soprano: Cindy Liu, Katie Yosua. Alto: Alison Larosa Montez, Michael Terranova. Tenor: Erik Bertrand, Matt Dorman (cantor). Bass: Simon Chase, Bill Leonard. With Ben Schwendener, piano.

FIRST CHURCH HAPPENINGS

YOUTH GROUP GATHERING - MLK DAY DINNER AND MOVIE Monday, January 16, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. We'll eat some food and watch the movie *Selma*. We'll meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. Check the latest issue of EVENT for other upcoming youth group gatherings.

FAMILY NIGHTS IN EPIPHANY Tuesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., January 17, 31 and February 14, Sage Hall Families with young children are warmly invited to our biweekly pasta-and-potluck suppers in Sage Hall, our indoor playspace. We gather to share a meal and share a bit of our lives as the kids play and the parents try for a bit of grown-up conversation. Our Family Nights in Epiphany will remain informal and “un-programmed,” but look forward to a Lenten series of Family Nights in March and April, when we will meet weekly for five sessions, with an adult program component in the Well.

CONSIDER JOINING FIRST CHURCH Sunday, January 22 Is First Church tugging at your heart? Does it feel like home to you, or like the sanctuary you need? Is your spirit fed by our music, worship and study? Is First Church a place where you are challenged, engaged, and growing? Is it a place you want to bring your children or grandchildren? Do you find an anchor here for your activism and community involvement? Is it a place where you can ask the questions that really matter or pour out your heart? We hope so! If you're experiencing any of these things, we invite you to consider membership in First Church. New members will be welcomed during our 11:00 a.m. service of worship on Sunday, January 22. Karin Case (karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org) is happy to reflect with you, answer questions, or provide more information. Please be in touch and let her know of your interest.

2017 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON Sunday, January 29, Margaret Jewett Hall Come one and all to the 381st Annual Meeting of First Church on Sunday, January 29, following Morning Worship! A delicious luncheon will lead into our meeting. We will celebrate another very full year of ministry, honor and thank one another for gifts discerned and shared, celebrate our outgoing and incoming leaders, and share plans and visions. We will also pray and sing!

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM AND EXTENDING SANCTUARY Sundays, January 29 and February 5 The designation of a place as one of "sanctuary" has historically served to distinguish it as set apart from other places in the world, as a special site of worship, protection, and refuge. In this context our religious identities may determine our ability to extend or receive sanctuary: indeed, the faith we profess may dictate whether we are in need of sanctuary or, on the other hand, in a position to offer sanctuary. Join Denson Staples, as we consider the unique role of Christians and Christian communities in the United States in the work of extending sanctuary across religious differences. In contemporary US society this involves a particular focus on building sanctuaries that can bridge Muslim and Christian religious communities.

MICROAGGRESSIONS WORKSHOP SUNDAY February 12, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m., Hastings Room Join First Church friends for an afternoon workshop on microaggressions, with guest facilitator Rev. Cody Sanders! Lunch will be provided and childcare can be arranged by contacting Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org. All are welcome. "Microaggressions" are the subtle, often unconscious and unintentional, slights, insults, and indignities communicated to persons targeting their race, gender, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc. This workshop will present the social scientific theory of microaggressions, develop an understanding of the ways religious and theological language and narratives intensify the power of microaggressions to harm, and will help participants consider ways of reducing the perpetuation of microaggressions in congregational life.

CENTERING MEDITATION Every Monday night, 6 - 7:00 p.m. in The Well (Room 22) Are you looking for a place to settle in for some quiet reflection in the midst of a hectic week? Interested in exploring a variety of meditation practices or deepening your current practice? Whether you're experienced or simply curious, all are welcome. For more information, contact Hilary Hopkins, hopkinsjh@verizon.net, or Karin Case, karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS UPDATE Planning and pre-construction prep are well underway for our capital campaign renovation project! Our building team, led by Don Johnson, has completed the bidding process for a general contractor. Our “GC” will be announced soon. By January, we should have a construction sequence and schedule to share such that we can prepare ourselves and our valued tenants for the project that is expected to run from early June to early October. Many thanks to our building team! Meanwhile, our capital campaign has now raised **\$1,761,281.10** in pledges! IF you have not already pledged, please do so now! If you have not paid your 2016 portion, please do so by year end. What a year it has been! Thank you First Church for all of your hard work, commitment and generosity *for such a time as this* and thanks be to God for the gift of faith in our shared future.

STEWARDSHIP AND PLEDGING UPDATE Thank you to all who have pledged their share for 2017. We are at 77% of our goal. If you haven't yet pledged, please pick up a blue pledge card from the table in the back of the sanctuary, or pledge online at www.firstchurchcambridge.org.

SERVICE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE POTLUCK DINNERS You are invited into someone's home for dinner, connection, and honest and heartfelt conversation on racism and anti-racism. Building the Beloved Community [aka BBC] is in the process of organizing potluck dinners in January and February for the purpose of engaging the wider First Church Community. We will focus on our experiences of racism, and how we understand white privilege. Members of the BBC will facilitate the discussions, using in part, the recently produced resource “White Privilege - Let's Talk “. National UCC leaders, including John Dorhauer, General Minister, President and Traci Blackmon, Interim Minister for Social Justice, were among the authors. To check out this source, go to <http://privilege.uccpages.org>. Sign up for the dinners will start on 12/18 during coffee hour on the Margaret Jewett Hall bulletin board and continue in early January. The dates for the dinners include January 17, 21, 27, 28, and February 3. Dinners are in the homes of BBC and other First Church members, and all opinions are welcome in the discussion. If you have questions, please speak to Linda Ziebell or Dave Kidder, or email lindaziebell@comcast.net or david.e.kidder@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S MARCH BOSTON Saturday, January 21 at 10:00, gather at clock in Harvard Square For those of you interested in going to the March this Saturday on the Boston Common -- some of us are gathering at the clock in Harvard Sq [in front of the Coop] at 10 a.m. and taking the red line in. The initial gathering of all participants will be on the Common at corners of Beacon and Charles, from there, we will be stepping off for a march down Commonwealth Ave., to Mass Ave. returning back to the Common for another hour of speeches and music. For more information contact Linda Ziebell: email lindaziebell@comcast.net and phone 781-281-2556. Please note this is an equal opportunity march open to all!

GBIO SPOTLIGHT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM Sunday, January 22, at 12:30 pm, Hastings Room. Join this discussion to learn about criminal justice reform in Massachusetts and why it is a major priority for GBIO, the current state legislature and many reform-minded groups and individuals. Learn about our state prison and parole systems, the ways they succeed and the ways they fail, and what can be done to make them effective in preparing those being released for productive lives. GBIO will focus on steps the Massachusetts legislature, which is preparing to take up this topic, should enact to stop the revolving prison door that wrecks havoc on families and communities, especially those of color. Contact Will Erickson, will.erickson@theshareunion.org , or Ann McCann, ann.mccann44@gmail.com, for more information.

GBIO ACTION Thursday, February 2, 6:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 40 Walk Hill St., Jamaica Plain Mark your calendar and join the First Church Cambridge delegation to this action to address four priority issues that GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith Organization) congregations are focusing on: criminal justice reform, which will be spotlighted; affordable housing; healthcare; and gun safety. No expertise necessary, your presence will make a big statement. Contact Will Erickson, theshareunion.org, or Ann McCann, ann.mccann44@gmail.com, for more information and to let them know that you're interested in joining the FCC delegation.



CAMPAIGN & CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

- The pre-construction phase is far along, and we are on track to complete construction documents at the end of this month. Early next month we will begin the sub-contractor bid process.
- The team at Sea-Dar Construction, our general contractor, has been busy examining the building renovation areas and meeting with Rob Olson to develop their construction planning. Rob has completed 95% of the construction documents; this week he received comments from both Sea-Dar and us.
- We are communicating with Newtowne and the Shelter Committee on the renovation designs and schedules in order to minimize disruption to their operations.
- \$882,380 — about 50% of the amount pledged—has already been paid. This enables us to pay bills coming up soon and lessens the amount we need to borrow.
- If you haven't had a chance to pledge, please consider doing so today. Pledge cards are available at both Sanctuary doors.

**SERVICE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Monday, January 16**

In addition to the many opportunities for fellowship at MLK Day breakfasts across Greater Boston, there are opportunities for learning and service. Here are two in which First Church folks have participated in past years.

Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Interfaith Service, on **Monday, January 16, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**, at **Brandeis University**, combines Educational/Social Justice Fair workshops with a service opportunity. The service component involves packing nutritious meals that will be distributed to local food programs and non-profits that serve low-income persons. For more information see coop-met.org.

Many Helping Hands MLK Day of Service, on **Monday, January 16, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**, in **Central Square**, starting at **Cambridge City Hall**. As their website states, “(i)n honor of Martin Luther King, Jr., volunteers of all ages join together for an afternoon of service to Cambridge residents in need.” Last year, over 2,600 volunteers worked with 79 local organizations. To learn more, visit <http://manyhelpinghands365>. You can register for the event (it’s free!) at <http://manyhelpinghands365.org/registration-mlk/>

- *More exciting news! First Church’s own Poet-in-Residence, Jean-Dany Joachim is collaborating with Many Helping Hands to create an MLK Day artistic event. As the website describes it, “We are creating a city-wide conversation project to respond to the events of Ferguson, Staten Island, as well as persistent racism in Cambridge. In the next two weeks we are holding Haiku poetry workshops and discussions across the city. We have created a website so that more people can participate. All of the Haikus will be collected and compiled in a book of poems that will be shared with city residents on Martin Luther King Day (January 19) at City Hall.” For more on this opportunity, see <http://manyhelpinghands365.org/category/mlk-day-of-service/>*

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Congregational Meeting of First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, United Church of Christ will be held in its **381st** year at 12:30 P.M. Sunday the **29th** of January **2017**, in the Margaret Jewett Hall on Garden Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the following purposes.

- To receive and act upon the reports of the Staff, Officers, Council, Boards and Committees of the Church.
- To make appropriations for the ensuing year for the maintenance, program and mission of the Church, and reliable provisions for meeting those expenses.
- To vote upon the slate of Officers and Committees for **2017** as prescribed in the Bylaws.
- To act on a motion that First Church explore the implications of declaring itself to be a Sanctuary Church.
- To consider any other business that may legally come before the meeting

By direction of Executive
Phil LaFollette, Clerk
Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 9, 2017

The Week Ahead

Sunday, January 15

- 9:00 a.m. Earth Stewardship Team, Tower Room
- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 10:00 a.m. "Lord, Prepare Me" — Being a Sanctuary Space, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, MLK Celebration and Testimonies
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: MLK Service Project (presch. - Grade 6), McKenzie Library
- 12:30 p.m. Newcomers Lunch, Hastings Room
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

Monday, January 16

The Church office and building are closed in observance of Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, January 17

- 5:30 p.m. Family Night, Sage Hall

Wednesday, January 18

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

Friday, January 19

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, January 22

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Community Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. "Lord, Prepare Me" — Being a Sanctuary Space, Hastings Room
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Joining Sunday, Karin Case, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Classes (presch. - Grade 6)
- 12:30 p.m. Church School Teachers Meeting, Hastings Room
- 12:30 p.m. Discernment & Formation Committee, Dan Smith's office
- 1:00 p.m. Our Whole Lives, Old South Church in Boston
- 7:00 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Minister	Rev. Dr. Karin Case 617-547-2724, ext. 26 karincase@firstchurchcambridge.org
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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

United Church of Christ

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