



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL, UCC
August 19, 2012
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

VOLUNTARY

*HYMN 253

God Is Here!

*GREETING

Erika Hanna

L: Hungering and thirsting, we come this morning to worship.

C: Jesus is the living bread!

L: Feed us and nourish us with your love and healing power, O God.

**C: Give us the bread of wisdom, hope, and compassion
that we may also feed others.**

L: Praise be to you, God, for your compassion for us.

C: Praise be to you, God, for your steadfast love. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

**All: Holy Wisdom,
you granted Solomon's request
for an understanding mind
and the knowledge to discern good from evil.
Fill us with such understanding and knowledge
that we may act as instruments
of your loving desire for creation,
working with you to transform
our conceit into concern for others,
our fear into love,
our violence into peace,
and our brokenness into wholeness. Amen.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

Sarah Higginbotham

ANTHEM

Two Prayers

Schickele

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" may be found in the beginning section of the hymnal. The C (Cambridge) - section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Let us pray for healing, pardon and peace.

C: All Wise God, we thank you for giving us this time to look into our words, thoughts and deeds. We confess that sometimes we fool ourselves into believing that we possess all the knowledge that we need. Even though we say we want to hear your Word and experience your wisdom, we often fail to see that you are with us, always and everywhere. Fill us now with your Holy Spirit and help us to discern your way of unconditional love, justice and compassion, that we might live eternally with you and Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 224 *Spirit of God, Descend Upon my Heart*

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING 1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14

READING John 6: 51-58

SERMON Julie Rogers

*HYMN 477 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH AND WORLD Karen McArthur

L: God be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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

*PENTECOST 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.**

*HYMN 439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*BENEDICTION

*COLLEGE LEAVE-TAKING BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Ultimate Jude

Paul Sawyer

*Praise ye the Lord above, praise ye the Lord!
Now unto the One who is able to keep you from falling,
And present you faultless before the presence of Glory with exceeding joy,
to the only wise God, our savior be glory and majesty,
both now and forever. Amen.*

VOLUNTARY

*The 2011-2012 bulletin cover art series was designed by Perry Neubauer and constructed
by many hands, large and small. Today's bulletin cover was created by Claudia Dyer.*

WELCOME TO FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE...

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.

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, toddlers and preschoolers 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.

PREACHING TODAY IS Julie Rogers, Affiliate Minister of Youth & Young Adults. Assisting with worship is Karen McArthur, Affiliate Minister of Stewardship & Finance. Our liturgist is First Church member Erika Hanna. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is omitted from this online version to preserve the privacy of those mentioned. If you'd like more information on the people we're praying for this week, please contact the church office at parishadmin@firstchurchcambridge.org or 617-547-2724 and we'll get the information to you.

FCC'S INVESTMENTS IN ACTION: OIKOCREDIT'S WORK TO ALLEVIATE

POVERTY IN BULGARIA Come join the Mission & Social Justice Committee members and other FCC folks at 11:15 a.m. today in the Hastings Room to see one of First Church's socially responsible investments, Oikocredit, in action. Ms. Katherine Greenough, Boston Area Outreach Coordinator for Oikocredit, will present a slide show on a recent Study Tour she attended in Bulgaria. The slide show will introduce the audience to micro-finance, to Oikocredit, and then will present stories and photos of Oikocredit clients in Bulgaria. You'll see directly how your investment in Oikocredit is helping the poor lift themselves out of poverty! It's sure to be a fascinating show; don't miss it!

MENTAL HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY GROUP How do emotional struggles and mental health difficulties affect your relationship with God? Does your faith change your experience of mental health issues? Join us in the Tower Room each Sunday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. as we hold these questions and our experiences in the healing light of Christ. The group is open: you may attend as often or as little as you like, and newcomers are always welcome. Talk to or e-mail Terry McKinney (temckinney@msn.com) or Carter West (stbosal@arczip.com).

WELCOME TO OUR SABBATICAL INTERIM MINISTER, REV. REEBEE KAVICH

GIRASH Reebie (short for Rebecca!) will be with us for most of the upcoming program year to assure that our worship and congregational life continue to move from strength to strength. (She is away this Sunday with a prior commitment). Reebie was recently pastor of Pleasant Street Congregational Church, UCC, in Arlington, until it closed in 2010. Given our ongoing connections with Pleasant Street Church through Terry McKinney and others and through their generosity to fund Terry's ministry with us from the proceeds from the sale of their building, this partnership seems an especially natural and Spirit-led fit! Reebie will be working $\frac{3}{4}$ time through October 1, when Dan begins his sabbatical. She will be full time and Head of Staff for four months until Dan returns on February 1 and will go back to $\frac{3}{4}$ time for the remainder of the spring, as the congregation discerns next steps for our staff. For a complete bio, see our website and click on About Us, and Our Staff.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AFFILIATE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS,

JULIE ROGERS Given the widely and deeply felt need to bolster our offerings for Youth and Young Adults, we are thrilled to welcome recent Harvard Divinity School graduate Julie Rogers. Julie is on the ordination track in the UCC with her home church in Montclair, NJ, and has experience in working with kids, young adults, and students of all ages. She recently served as Ministerial Intern at Harvard's Memorial Church and will be continuing there as part-time Director of Religious Education. Julie will be with us only once a month in Morning Worship, but she will be leading regular youth and young adult events, including a monthly brunch and a bi-weekly "Faith on Tap" group at a local watering hole. She will also be leading our Confirmation Class with Sarah Higginbotham. To read her bio, see our website and click on About Us, and Our Staff.

"PICKUP CHOIR" For the summer, the First Church Choir continues to sing for Sunday services, but does not rehearse on Thursday night. The music we sing during the summer is less complicated and perhaps more familiar to the average choral singer, and participation is open to anyone who would like to give it a try. The ability to read music and hold a part is desirable, and music for the following Sunday's service will be made available for those who would perhaps like to take it home and prepare over the week. This is a great opportunity to worship God in song, to sing some great music, and to meet a really fun and nice group of people! Ask Peter Sykes for more details.

REGATHERING SUNDAY, September 9 It is always a joy to witness the great re-gathering of our community in September. First Church members, friends, newcomers, and visitors all contribute to a glorious mix of welcome and reconnection. Plan to join us on September 9 for a full day of fellowship and worship.

- ◆ **Regathering Breakfast, Margaret Jewett Hall, 10:00 a.m.** Get a jumpstart on greeting old friends and making new ones over a continental breakfast buffet. Come hear about formation and fellowship opportunities for all ages.
- ◆ **Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m., Dan Smith, preaching** Children in Godly Play 1, Godly Play 2, and Seasons of the Spirit (PreK-7th graders) leave the sanctuary at approximately 11:20 a.m. for Opening Day activities in their church school classrooms.
- ◆ **Regathering Sunday Reception, Margaret Jewett Hall, 12:30 p.m.** Stick around after church for good food and drink and time to reconnect with friends, mingle with newcomers, meet new staff and celebrate the beginning of the fall season!

GBIO MEETING AT FIRST CHURCH Sunday, September 9 at 12:45 in the Hastings Room The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization is not just a healthcare organization! We are multi-issue and are also working on public education, youth employment, and issues impacting small and minority business in Boston. Come to this after church session and learn about the breadth of GBIO's current work. Hear more about our early October forum that GBIO will be hosting with Senate candidates Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren. And learn about and share your thoughts about a possible new state revenue campaign that GBIO is beginning to consider. A representative of the non-partisan Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center will be with us to offer some ideas about why this may be a big issue in the Statehouse and across the Commonwealth in the coming year. After you've grabbed a bite and said a few hello's at our Regathering Reception, join us at 12:45 in the Hastings Room.

COOKIES FOR COFFEE HOUR ALERT Janet Lyman will shortly be resuming her former role soliciting cookies for Coffee Hour, phoning from her nursing home setting in Brookline. Please continue to respond to calls for cookies as you are able. Your caller ID will indicate a call from Brookline. When you receive a message from Janet, be sure to use the number she left in her message.

SHELTER INTERN The Shelter Committee is asking for an interested high school junior or senior to participate in an intern program. The objective of the program will be to create a pamphlet or other appropriate materials to explain the details of how the Shelter fulfills its mission of providing shelter to homeless men and assisting in their transition back into permanent housing. There are a lot of details to this process as well as a wider context of social discussion on the issue of homelessness and how to best address the challenge. For example, there are other models of providing this kind of service to the community. How does how we do it at the First Church Shelter compare to other accepted models? This is intended as an opportunity for the Shelter to engage in the life of the Congregation through the contribution of a caring and interested young adult. At this point no stipend is envisioned, although this could be the subject of discussion. As a motivational point, this sure would look good on a college resume! Structure for the program will be provided by Michael Swartz, Chair of the Shelter Committee with support from Jim Stewart, Shelter Director, and other members of the both the Committee and the Shelter Staff. Interested individuals should contact Michael Swartz at michael.swartz@perkinelmer.com.

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR THE 2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR

All children from infants to teenagers can be registered for programs at First Church. We have moved to an online registration form, found on our website. We invite parents to please take a moment before Re-Gathering Sunday, September 9, to register your children, so that we can be prepared to welcome them into the Nursery, Church School, Confirmation Class, or Youth Group. Speak with Sarah Higginbotham if you have questions or concerns.

FALL FAMILY RETREAT, OCTOBER 13-14 - REGISTER NOW ONLINE Families with children from infants to teenagers are invited to join us on the third annual Fall Family Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on October 13-14, 2012. Spend 24 hours on the Cape with your church friends - we'll play, sing, eat, worship, laugh, and pray together. Registration is now taking place on our website - click on "Latest News" or visit the Children or Youth pages on the site.

NEW "MEMBERS" ONLY SECTION OF CHURCH WEBSITE -- Starting in September, members and friends of First Church will be given a username and password to access a new "members-only" section of our website. Whether you have been a part of our congregation for a few weeks or for a lifetime, as an official member or a friend, you will be welcome to sign on for access to our church directory, prayer requests, a First Church blog, small group announcements, board minutes, budgets, and more. Users will be able to update contact information, post photos and also email each other through our site (note: actual email addresses will remain hidden). In order to set up an initial version of our online member directory, we will be uploading our current Parish List of contact information directly to the site. Your information will not be accessible to anyone but members and friends of our community. If you would prefer not to have your information available to other First Church

users, please send an email to Kirsten Manville at parishadmin@firstchurhcambridge.org by September 5th and please include "opt out" in the subject line.

NIGHT SONG HELPERS NEEDED Night Song is offering 1/2 hour Compline services at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday nights in our sanctuary from now through early November when they will return to their long services starting at 7 p.m.. Do you attend these services regularly or are you looking for an extra reason to do so? Night Song is looking for volunteers to help set out candles, hand out service bulletins and count attendees. If you are willing to help now or beginning in November, please contact Night Song Artistic Director Daryl Bichel at darylbichel@aol.com. If you'd like to know more about Night Song, please visit our website and look under Worship, Music and Spiritual Life.

A SERVICE ROOTED IN THE SIKH TRADITION: A DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT Thursday, August 23, 6:00pm at Trinity Church (206 Clarendon Street, Boston, MA 02116) In solidarity and support, join us to pray for those killed at the Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and peace among all people. Musicians from the four Gurdwaras in Massachusetts will share shabads (song) from the Gurmat Sangeet (Sikh sacred music) tradition. All are welcome to listen and learn about this religious community. Christians, Jewish and Muslim leaders will speak in support of religious liberty for all. In solidarity with the Sikh community you are invited to cover your head when you enter the Sanctuary as you feel comfortable. If you would like to participate, scarves will be provided at the entrance to the Sanctuary. In several religious traditions, including Sikhism, it is customary to cover one's head as a sign of respect when entering a holy space. All are invited to stay for the Guru Ka Langar (meal) to follow. The langar, an integral part of Sikh religious practice, demonstrates a commitment to sharing and equality, and is much more than just a meal. Please join us in the Undercroft beneath the Sanctuary to continue our time together as all are fed a traditional vegetarian Indian meal prepared by the local Sikh community.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

Starting now and continuing throughout the summer children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. We hope that kids will join in our congregation's singing, praising, praying, and peace-passing. For quieter moments, such as the readings and sermon, books and activity packets are available in the corner by the side entrance. We encourage children to pick a quiet activity to help them settle in during this time. If younger children are especially fidgety, families are welcome to move to the Hastings Room (with books and activity packets in hand), where speakers connected to the sanctuary sound system allow you to hear the service.

*Through the months of July and August, **worship will be held at 10:00 a.m.**, with pick-up choir meeting at 9 a.m.*

The First Church office will be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. The building will remain open as usual, and a sexton will be in the building at all times.

SMALL GROUP AND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

First Church maintains a busy schedule of small group activities and worship opportunities throughout the year, but we slow down a bit in the summer months. Here's a quick guide to what's happening when:

Worship Services

***Night Song** continues to offer a 30-minute Compline service at 8:30 p.m. on Sundays through the summer and fall will resume its schedule of full services on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in November.*

***Third Sunday Jazz at 5:00 pm** will return in September with a Regathering celebration on September 16th.*

Small Groups

***Third Sunday Newcomer Sessions** after morning worship will be offered again beginning in September.*

***Tuesday Family Night** will re-start its bi-weekly schedule in late September.*

The Week Ahead

Today, Sunday, August 19

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Julie Rogers, preaching
- 11:15 a.m. FCC's Investments in Action: Oikocredit's work to alleviate poverty in Bulgaria, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 26

- 9:00 a.m. Pick up Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Reebee Kavich Girash, preaching
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Looking Ahead

September 2

(Note: Morning Worship returns to 11:00 a.m.)

- 10:00 a.m. Pick-up Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Multigenerational Communion, Dan Smith preaching
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

September 9

REGATHERING SUNDAY

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Regathering Breakfast, Fall Program Orientation, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Dan Smith, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School begins for grades PreK-7
- 12:15 p.m. Welcome Back Coffee Hour, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 12:30 p.m. GBIO Lunch, Hastings Room
- 2:00 p.m. Mental Health and Spirituality Group, Tower Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

First Church Covenant Testimony

Adopted 1990

We believe that our covenant with God and each other calls us:

To love God with all that we are, and our close and distant neighbors as ourselves;
To seek peace with justice and equity for all people;
To engage in non-violent resistance to evil;
To respect and preserve God's earth;
To foster community across every barrier and division;
To attend to God's unfolding and reconciling word;
To support each other in our frailties and strengths, that we may embody that love which overcomes fear and death.

This we testify, confessing always our reliance on God's grace in Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

Senior Minister	Rev. Dan Smith, 617-547-2724, ext. 23 dsmith@firstchurchcambridge.org
Sabbatical Interim Minister	Rev. Reebee Girash 617-547-2724 ext. 26 rgirash@firstchurchcambridge.org
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Affiliate Minister of Stewardship and Finance	Rev. Karen McArthur, 617-547-2724, ext. 22 treasurer@firstchurchcambridge.org
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