



FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

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

*All children from Preschool to 7th grade are now invited to leave for creative arts projects.
Teachers will meet children at the side door to accompany them to their classrooms.
Parents can meet their children in Margaret Jewett Hall after worship.*

*HYMN 356

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Taj Smith

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 138

- L I give you thanks, O God, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
- C: I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for
your steadfast love and your faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**
- L: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.
- C: All the rulers of the earth shall praise you, O God,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**
- L: They shall sing of the ways of the Holy One,
for great is the glory of God.
- C: For though you are high, you regard the lowly;
but the haughty you perceives from far away.**
- L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
- C: You will fulfil your purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O God, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

READING

Romans 12: 1-8

SERMON

Brent Coffin

*HYMN 226

Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION OF BRENT COFFIN

Dan Smith

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Taj Smith

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.*)

L: Hear us now as we pray in the spirit of our brother, Jesus:
Our Creator, our Mother...

**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 *O Love, Who Formedst me to Wear*

Monk

*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.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 445

Be Thou My Vision

*BENEDICTION

*BLESSING OF OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR KIRSTEN MANVILLE

Karin Case

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Send me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)

Hymn 344

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

Partita on Freu dich sehr, meine Seele

Georg Bohm

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 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.

PREACHING TODAY IS is Brent Coffin, affiliate member of First Church and ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church. Assisting with worship are Dan Smith, Senior Minister, Karin Care, Minister, Taj Smith, Ministerial Intern, and Kate Layzer, Minister of Street Outreach. Our liturgist is Julie Pridham. Peter Sykes, Director of Music, is playing the organ and directing the choir.

The **YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** section of the bulletin is 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.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

SPEAKING OF FAITH IN A SECULAR WORLD Today at 10 a.m., Hastings Room In a city and region like ours, speaking about (let alone living!) our faith outside of First Church circles can be a genuine challenge. We may mix it up all the time with secular friends, people at work, or people of other faiths, but how often do conversations turn to what matters most, and to what lies at the center of our life and faith? The conversations can be either totally amazing or totally awkward, and our fear of the latter may keep us quiet, even among close friends and family members. Join us as we share a few awkward or amazing stories and as we begin to explore the challenge of speaking our faith in a secular world. Dan Smith and Karin Case will co-lead this second of two 10 o'clock Hour sessions in the Hastings Room.

BELL CHOIR Today at 10:00, Lindsay Chapel Bell Choir is starting again and we are always looking for ringers! No prior experience needed. Reading music a plus but not required. All ages welcome to come to a rehearsal and try it out! We rehearse in the Chapel on the other side of Margaret Jewett Hall from 10:00-10:50 AM on Sunday mornings and will play in church on October 25th. Or come to rehearsals in November and December and play with us during the Unpageant on December 20th. Please email susielongfield@gmail.com for more information.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR CELEBRATION Today at 12:15 in Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) First Church Parish Administrator Kirsten Manville is preparing for her upcoming sabbatical, October 1 through December 31. In addition to resting and recharging, Kirsten will be taking a course on concert venue management, the content of which should aid in her work dealing with outside groups using the church as a concert venue. The staff has done extensive planning for coverage of Kirsten's tasks while she is away. Staff members will take on pieces of her work and Facilities Manager Dan dos Santos' hours will increase during her sabbatical time. To assume the majority of Kirsten's tasks, involving preparation for Sunday worship services and management of building reservations, **Shannon Fuller has been appointed Acting Parish Administrator.** Shannon is working half-time (Tuesday-Friday, 10:00-2:00), through December 31. Shannon has more than 14 years of experience in office coordination and support. Kirsten will be present for Morning Worship today, so we can celebrate and send her off on her sabbatical time. Please join us!

FAITH AND LIFE GROUPS SIGN-UPS Today at 12:30, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH) 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 (and what we do at church) 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 (such as homeless ministries, parenting, or caring for the earth) and will be led by someone with a passion for the subject. These groups are time-limited. They're designed to meet for about six sessions on dates and times to be arranged with the group leaders. ***Faith and Life Groups will take place during October and November.*** You can find more information at <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/faith-life-groups#>

GREATER BOSTON INTERFAITH ORGANIZATION (GBIO) FORUM Today at 12:45 p.m., in the Hastings Room For an update and general info session on First Church's work with the GBIO, come to the Hastings Room today at 12:45 p.m., to learn more about this important ministry's role in the Boston area. If you are interested in becoming more deeply involved, there will be an opportunity to sign up for updates on upcoming events. For more information contact GBIO liaison Will Erickson, will.erickson@theshareunion.org, or Ministerial Intern Taj Smith, taj@firstchurchcambridge.org.

RESIST THE PIPELINE MARCH AND RALLY Today at 2:00 pm. Meet at Billings Field, 380 LaGrange St., West Roxbury, to protest lateral gas pipelines running through West Roxbury and Dedham. Contact Margaret Gooch at margaretgooch@gmail.com or find more information at http://www.bostonherald.com/news_opinion/local_coverage/2015/07/protesters_rallying_against_boston_area_pipeline_project and <https://www.facebook.com/stopwrl>.

NIGHT SONG: SOLEMN MYSTICAL COMPLINE Tonight at 8:30 p.m., Sanctuary Tri-tone plainchant setting for compline by Daryl Bichel. Psalm 25 set by Patricia Van Ness. Hymn is Christie, qui lux es et dies, set by Robert White. Salve Regina by John Browne. Sung by a quintet: Sylvia Bridges, soprano; Alison LaRosa Montez, alto and cantor; Jason Connell, tenor; Daryl Bichel, baritone; Bill Leonard, bass. We will not be using incense this Sunday.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

WELCOME NEWCOMERS! Interested in learning more about First Church? Whether you're new to the area or simply new to First Church, we're glad you're here! Please take a moment during church to fill out a pew card with your name and contact information, or stop by one of our tables after worship. You'll find a *Welcome Table* in Margaret Jewett Hall with information about First Church and someone to greet you and answer any questions you may have. We'd love to know that you've been here and help you connect with opportunities that interest you at First Church. Here are some ways to get connected:

- Request a nametag (Easy! Just fill out a pew card and we'll have one ready for you next Sunday.)
- Receive *First Glance*, our succinct, weekly e-communication about the events of the week. (Just check the box on your pew card and you'll receive next week's issue on Friday.)
- Receive *EVENT*, our e-newsletter (Also available in paper form) that comes out every couple of months. (Yup, check the box on your pew card to sign up.)
- Check out our web site: <http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/>
- Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/firstchurchincambridge>
- Watch the Sunday bulletin for information about the many activities and opportunities in our worship and community life.

Please come back and explore the rich worship, spiritual and community life at First Church!

JOIN FIRST CHURCH'S EARTH STEWARDSHIP TEAM. The team is now inviting and welcoming new members. Information is posted on the Earth Stewardship bulletin board at First Church, and inquiries about participating will be welcomed at a coffee hour table on September 27.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH If you haven't yet, please complete the brief online registration (www.firstchurchcambridge.org/children-youth-program-registration-2015-2016) for each of your children participating in our Christian Formation programming this year. You'll also provide important info about allergies, permission for photographs and transportation, as well as contact info so we can stay in touch. You can find a schedule of programs on the Children and Youth pages on our website.

FALL ALL-CHURCH RETREAT We're looking forward to our annual First Church Retreat at Craigville Retreat Center on Cape Cod, October 2-4. This is a community gathering that will include time for beach-walking, game-playing, small group sessions, large group worship, music and art-making, and more. The Retreat is full and registration is closed. If you have signed up the Retreat, please stay tuned for more details.

SATURDAY NIGHT SANDWICHES! Saturday, October 3 at 4:00 As part of the Outdoor Church's ministry to persons experiencing homelessness in Cambridge, First Church sponsors the Saturday Night Sandwiches program. Since 2010, on the first Saturday of each month, First Church volunteers have assembled and distributed sandwich bags (sandwich, banana and some chocolate Kisses), juice boxes and new pairs of socks. We make the sandwiches at First Church on Saturday afternoons at around 4:00 PM (3:00 PM when it's darker in the winter) and then distribute them in Harvard Square. We're generally finished a little after 6:00 PM. This is an important ministry, and one that some in the First Church community have found personally rewarding. If you'd like to be on our mailing list, contact Dave Kidder at 617-924-7236 or david.e.kidder@gmail.com Please join us!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION Sunday, October 4 Cooking oil? Instant coffee? Peanut butter? Could you put these and maybe a few other things on your shopping list for the Rindge Towers food pantry? Remember: unbreakable, unopened, unexpired. Many thanks!

2015 DORIS BEAUVAIS LECTURE AND LUNCHEON Sunday, October 11 at 12:30 p.m., A hot hearty lunch will be served immediately after the service. This year, the Rev. Tina Rathbone, Cathedral Missioner of St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral of Boston, will discuss her advocacy work for those displaced by condemnation of the Long Island Bridge. We will also present Mitch Snyder awards to Boston Warm and those at Old South who made it happen, Emmanuel Church, American Friends Service Committee's Material Assistance Program, Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee and Brittany Gravely of Harvard Film Archive

ANSWERING THE CALL: AN INTERFAITH GATHERING FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Monday, October 12, Welcoming Reception & Sign-in: 6:30 pm, Program: 7:00pm to 9:00 pm, Temple Beth Elohim 10 Bethel Road, Wellesley. Join this special interfaith event as we

share messages of hope, inspiration, and action for healing our world. First Church is a co-sponsor of this event. To RSVP or for more information, visit: www.tbewellesley.org/climate. You may sign up for this event at the First Church coffee hour on Sunday Sept.27. Also, if interested in car-pooling from First Church at 5:30 p.m on October 12, you may contact Susan Redlich at susan.redlich@gmail.com.

MIDDLE EAST INITIATIVE OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE UCC. The Palestine Israel Task Team has planned two sessions, on October 18th and November 22nd, on the Middle East. Global Missions is focusing on the Middle East beginning this past August and extending into 2016. For two months, a country will be focused on. There will be webinars with our Global Missions partners, Bible studies, and sermons that one can access at www.globalministries.org. In the months of August and September, Syria was the focus. On October 18th at the 10 o'clock hour, the task team has invited Razek Siriani to speak with us. Razek, his wife and two adolescent sons, came from Aleppo in the fall of 2013. Razek belongs to the Syrian Orthodox Church of Antioch and was ordained a lay deacon in 1999. Since 1985 he has worked with the Middle East Council of Churches coordinating the youth programs of Syria. In 2003, Razek was appointed to direct the MECC Department of International & Ecumenical Relations. In preparation for the 18th, we would encourage you to go to the website www.globalministries.org -- go to resources -- then hit Middle East and go to August to find Razek's compelling sermon Where is God ? You are also invited to listen to the 2 webinars and hear from the religious leaders of Syria.

SUBVERTING THE GOSPEL OF GUNS: A TWO DAY SUMMIT AT ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL October 22nd and 23rd

Andover Newton will host a two-day summit for alumni/ae and friends to participate in an urgent conversation about gun violence in the United States. This gathering will focus on the response by people of faith to the current situation in our country, and will provide action steps for how we can all work together to change the culture of guns and violence in our communities. The event will include keynote speakers, panel discussions, and worship. Boston Mayor Martin J Walsh and Massachusetts Attorney General will offer keynote addresses on Thursday and Friday, respectively. Other speakers will include local police chiefs, policy makers, scholars, activists and clergy, including our own Rev. Dan Smith, who has been a co-convenor of the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and a leader in *Do Not Stand Idly By*, a national campaign that is working with local and state government and law enforcement to demand more of companies they buy guns from. Cost is \$35. Please register for all or part of the event at <http://www.ants.edu/subverting-gospel-of-guns>.

WEDNESDAY CHRISTIAN MEDITATION Christian Meditation is the ancient practice of opening the heart in silence to the indwelling presence of God. Join the circle any Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in Lindsay Chapel. No experience is required, but all experience is welcome. Reach Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

VOLUNTEER AT THE FRIDAY CAFÉ 8 REASONS TO VOLUNTEER AT THE FRIDAY CAFÉ

- It's a little taste of the reign of God, including donuts.
- It's a great excuse to start the weekend early (how can your employer say no?).
- Change the world, Jesus-style: Eat with people you wouldn't normally be seen with.
- High schoolers: Community service credit!
- The food is really good. (Did we mention donuts?)
- It makes you feel good in your soul.
- It's something you can bring a non-church friend to that you can both enjoy.
- It's love in action.

E-mail Kate Layzer at klayzer@gmail.com to volunteer.

REFUGEE CRISIS AND UCC RESPONSE We have all been reading about the refugee crisis in Europe. Not since the Second World War have we seen such high numbers of refugees and displaced persons desperately seeking safety and refuge in lands not their own. Working with partners inside the country of Syria, and in surrounding countries, the UCC is providing emergency assistance to the millions of refugees who are trying to flee the conflict. Food, water, blankets, hygienic items, essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment have been and will continue to be provided. In addition, psychological, emotional, spiritual, and social support is being given, as are clothes, other non-food items, and support aimed at preparing for the winter cold season, just ahead. **How You Can Help:**

- Prayers are always needed. Please pray for all people having to flee their homes for safety.
- Make a gift. 100% of gifts designated to "Syria Humanitarian Crisis" will go directly to help Syrian refugees and those internally displaced in the Middle East and Europe. Checks payable to One Great Hour of Sharing with the above memo line can be placed in the offering plates and will be delivered to our UCC headquarters.

Thank you for your concern and generosity.

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR VALUABLES As the church program year begins, please be reminded that First Church is an open building, and petty theft does occur here. Please make sure to not leave wallets, purses, phones, etc. unattended. And if you see anything suspicious, please contact a sexton immediately. Thank for your vigilance and care.

Today's bulletin cover was created by Perry Neubauer.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, September 27

- 9:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:45 a.m. Coffee/Gathering Time, MJH
- 10:00 a.m. Christian Formation for Adults, Hastings Room
- 10:00 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal, Lindsay Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Brent Coffin, preaching
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts/Bulletin Cover Design
- 12:15 p.m. Cake and Celebration for our Parish Administrator, Kirsten Manville, MJH
- 12:45 p.m. Greater Boston Interfaith Organization Forum, Hastings Room
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

Monday, September 28

- 6:30 p.m. Executive Council Capital Campaign Pre-Meeting, Hastings Room
- 7:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, Hastings Room

Tuesday, September 29

- 6:30 p.m. Capital Campaign Meeting, Dan Smith's office

Wednesday, September 30

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, Dan Smith's office
- 6:00 p.m. Christian Meditation, Lindsay Chapel

Thursday, October 1

- 7:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Hastings Room

Friday, October 2

- 1:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall
- 8:00 p.m. All-Church Retreat, Craigsville Retreat Center, Cape Cod

Sunday, October 4

- 10:00 a.m. No Christian Formation (Church on Retreat)
- 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 (Church on Retreat)
- 12:15 p.m. Outdoor Church Sandwich Making at Coffee Hour
- 1:00 p.m. Outdoor Church, Cambridge Common
- 8:30 p.m. Night Song Compline, Sanctuary

The Staff of First Church in Cambridge

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FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, CONGREGATIONAL

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