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Season of Epiphany  
February 4, 2024

**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

We're glad you are worshiping with us today! First Church is a vibrant, multi-generational, engaged, urban church. We care a lot about each other and what's happening in the world around us. Wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

FIRST CHURCH  
IN CAMBRIDGE  
CONGREGATIONAL

388 YEARS  
ON THE WAY

1636 – 2024

**February 4, 2024**

**Preaching**

Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*

**Liturgist**

Adam Weiss, *Deacon*

**Leading Worship**

Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*

Karen McArthur, *Minister of Stewardship & Finance*

Lee Prouty, *tech support*

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*

Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

**Bulletin Cover Image**

Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

## Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Formation: Called to Repair, Hastings Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well
- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)
- 11:20 a.m. Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adults: Fresh Pond Walk & Hot Cocoa, meet in MJH
- 12:30 p.m. "Back from the Brink" Presentation, MJH
- 12:30 p.m. Executive Council & Deacons' Meeting, Harter Room
- 7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and [via livestream](#)

## New to First Church?

Have you just begun joining us for worship? Consider filling out a visitor card found on the small clipboards or this "[virtual visitor card](#)" so that we might connect with you about our community.

## Give to First Church

You can give electronically by using the QR code in the bulletin or explore more options for giving at: [www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give](http://www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give)

## Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find [contact information](#) for our ministerial, program, and building staff on our website. For general information and inquiries: [info@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:info@firstchurchcambridge.org)

## Minister On Call

If you have an urgent pastoral need, please call 617-547-2724 ext. 222. Your call will be routed to a First Church minister based on a rotating schedule that covers staff time off.

Have a church program or event to promote?  
Complete the [First Church Communications Request](#) form.

Have an edit or update for our website?  
Complete the [FCC Website Changes](#) form

## GATHERING

*For those participating at home, we invite you to bring bread or crackers and water, juice, or wine to your home altar, so that you may participate in Holy Communion.  
All are welcome at the Table!*

**VOLUNTARY**

Elevation Toccata

Girolamo Frescobaldi

**\*HYMN 318**

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

**\*GREETING**

Adam Weiss

L: Sisters and brothers, siblings all, grace and peace to you from God.

**C: And to the whole world, God's love, light, and healing!**

L: Arise and show forth the glory and justice of God!

**C: With Jesus, our light has come.**

**God's spirit shines on us, full of grace and peace.**

L: Then let us gather and sing God's praise!

**C: With you, God, our feast is abundant.**

**We drink from the rivers of your delight.**

L: With you is the fountain of life!

**All: In your light we see light!**

**All glory and honor be yours, almighty and everlasting One!**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**ANTHEM**

Grant This to Me

Peter Schickele

**CONFESSING**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

**SILENCE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

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

**All: Holy God, in your light we see light.**

**And so too we see the veils of our ignorance and pride,**

**the ways we treat ourselves and others**

**without your mercy, love or justice.**

*(cont'd. on next page)*

*\*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.*

Let the brightness of your morning  
burn through our fog of aimlessness and sin  
and put a new song in our hearts.  
Teach us to see your world illumined anew,  
as with the eyes of Jesus. Amen.

## DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

### \*GREETING OF PEACE

### \*HYMN 281

Spirit of the Living God

*Children up through 7th grade are now invited to Church School: Pastoral Care Sunday in the Library. Children will return to worship in time for Communion.*

## OPENING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Karen McArthur

### READING

Mark 1:29-39

### SERMON

Emma Thomas

### \*HYMN 358

When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God

## SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,  
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.  
Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts for 2023 or  
2024, from your bank account or by credit/debit card:*



### OFFERTORY

Thee, I Pray

Peter Schickele

### \*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

### SHARING THE FEAST

## \*INVITATION

Carla Arevalo

## \*PRAYER OF PREPARATION

### REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

L: Now, O God, we remember Jesus, our brother.

*Silence*

L: He took his place among sinners, although he had nothing to repent.

**C: He was baptized with them, God's Child and Delight.**

L: We remember that he called disciples and ministered to all.

**C: He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the poor.**

L: We remember that he died between thieves, and was buried in a borrowed grave.

**C: We believe that you raised him. He lives even now, the Light of the World.**

L: How wonderfully he fed us! Loaves and fish for the multitude,  
wine for a wedding in Cana, living water for the woman at the well,  
breakfast for disciples on the shore!

**C: Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.**

L: He took bread, gave you thanks, and broke it, saying:

This is my body, surrendered for you!

**C: And when the supper was over, he took a cup filled with wine.**

**He gave you thanks for it and passed it to his friends, saying:**

**This is my life poured out for you, and for everyone,  
so that sins might be forgiven.**

L: He told us, "Do this and remember me!"

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Please pray this prayer 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.**

**\*SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*All who seek to follow Jesus' way of compassion, justice and peace are welcome at this table. If you are here in the Sanctuary, please approach one of the stations. (Please exit your pews to the right and return from the left.) The cup is filled with grape juice and the bread is gluten-free. Anyone who, for any reason, is not able to come forward will be served in the pews. Young and old alike are welcome to share in the gift of Holy Communion!*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks to God:

**All: Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,  
for gladness in this bread and cup,  
for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give,  
for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation,  
and for the mission of justice you have made our own.  
Give us the fruits of this holy communion:  
oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies,  
the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

**GOING FORTH**

**\*HYMN 325**

Now Let Us From This Table Rise

**\*LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR WENDY VANDER HART**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**VOLUNTARY**

Elevation

Dom Paul Benoit

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**First Church Land Acknowledgment**



*We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.*

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.



OPENING HYMN

318

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1. Draw us in the Spir-it's te - ther, for when hum - bly,  
 2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
 3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name, two or three are met to - geth - er, you are  
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the  
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, we may

in the midst of them; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
 be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
 lu - ia! So now bind our friend - ship up.  
 lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

WORDS: Percy Dearmer, *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931, alt.  
 MUSIC: Harold Friedell, 1957; adapt. Jet Turner, 1967, alt.

UNION SEMINARY  
 87.87.44.7

PEACE HYMN

281

Spirit of the Living God

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me; Spir - it of the

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, and C5. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me,

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff melody includes quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5, followed by a half note G5. The bass staff continues with accompaniment.

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff melody includes quarter notes G5, F5, E5, and D5, followed by a half note D5. The bass staff concludes with accompaniment.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

Daniel Iverson was a North Carolina Presbyterian minister who was moved to create this response while attending a revival service.

IVERSON  
75.75.875

© 1935 Birdwing Music, admin. EMI  
Christian Music Publishing



SERMON HYMN

# 358 When Jesus Came Preaching the Way of Our God

1. When Je - sus came preach-ing the way of our God, with the  
 2. Since Je - sus came preach-ing the way of our God, what a  
 3. Still Je - sus comes preach-ing the way of our God, in a

love that has power to per-suade, the sick were made whole, both in  
 change in our lives he has made! How man - y have shared in the  
 world that is sick and a - fraid; the gos - pel is spread like the

bod - y and soul, and e - ven the de - mons o - beyed.  
 joy of their Lord, in self - giv - ing have loved and o - beyed!  
 leav - en in bread by the love that has power to per-suade.

But he need - ed a few he could trust to be true, to  
 But let none of us doubt what re - li - gion's a - bout, or by  
 So let none of us swerve from our mis - sion to serve that has

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1969

MUSIC: Walker's *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. FCC, 1997

SAMANTHRA  
Irr.

*continued on next page*

SERMON HYMN, cont'd.



share in the work from the start: when Je - sus came preach-ing the  
what it is shamed and be-trayed: do just - ly, love mer - cy, walk  
made us his church from the start; may Je - sus, the light of the



way of our God, the glad gift to the hum - ble of heart.  
hum - bly with God, is the rule Je - sus free - ly o - beyed.  
world, send us out in the strength of the hum - ble of heart.

CLOSING HYMN

325

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise, re - newed in  
 2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to spread the  
 3. To fill each hu - man house with love, it is the  
 4. Then give us grace, Com - pan - ion - God, to choose a -

bod - y, mind and soul; with Christ we die and live a -  
 Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the steps of  
 sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be - gan to  
 gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac - cept with

gain, his self - less love has made us whole.  
 Christ, at one with all in hope and need.  
 do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.  
 joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

WORDS: Fred Kaan, 1968

MUSIC: Melody, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609;  
 harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
 LM

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Rob Newton and his family as they grieve the loss of Rob's mother, Nancy Newton, who died peacefully in her sleep in early January.
- We pray for Emma Blanc as she recovers from surgery on her right arm to relieve nerve pain.
- We pray for Faith Ross as she mourns the unexpected death of her dear friend Oliver Edwards, and we pray for all who were close to Oliver.
- We pray for Brent and Poppy Coffin as Poppy experiences a significant decline in her struggle with Alzheimer's and as she recovers from Covid and a bacterial infection.
- We pray for Jennifer Petrallia, who is suffering from debilitating anxiety and depression.
- We pray for all who are in treatment for cancer and other ongoing health challenges: Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; Jim Rae, Ami Brenner's father; Ellen Smith, Devin Hansen's aunt; Judith Semmler, Alice Napoleon Jones's mother; Karen Anne Zee's daughter Becky Collet and her son-in-law Stewart Bailey; Beth and Polly, Ann McCann's sisters; Michael, Ginny Harlan's son; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across our state.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, including in Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. We also pray for all political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water. We mourn the tragic loss of life at the Texas border recently, and we pray for family, loved ones, and advocates during this time of extreme political tension.
- We pray for the wellbeing and safety of our trans and gender non-conforming siblings as they face the experience of vitriolic public discourse and of state laws that restrict and criminalize transgender health care, personal expression, and wider LGBTQ+ education.
- We pray for those most affected by changes in reproductive rights: for all those struggling with the moral and political complexities of pregnancy and childbearing, and for patients and healthcare providers who are unable to give and receive care in their own states.
- We pray for the 14 men finding sustenance and protection in our First Church Shelter; and we pray for the guests of the Friday Café, who are finding resources and listening ears.

**Join the [First Church List](#) to see and offer up more community prayer requests.**



*The chancel flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Hilary Hopkins by her family on the one-year anniversary of her death on February 2, 2023.*

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

### Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel enters its fourth month, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1400 Israelis and over 26,000 Palestinians so far, we pray for an end to the war and immediate de-escalation of tensions in the region that are threatening a wider and more lasting conflict. We decry the horrifically violent Hamas attacks against Israel on October 7, as well as the disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government and military.

We hold that every person is made in God's image and that every life is precious. We pray for the safe return of all hostages. We pray for redoubled diplomatic efforts to address the already devastating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories. We continue to pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel and throughout the region. We also pray for Jews and Muslims, nearby and around the world, who are facing increased threats and acts of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim discrimination, hatred, and violence.

We continue to pray for ourselves, that we will be courageous, faithful, compassionate, and open to God's love and leading, and to all whom we encounter through these tension-filled times. Across whatever division or disagreement, may our words and deeds seek to honor the humanity and God-given dignity of every human being.



CHURCHES FOR  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE

#### Join Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)

##### "Stand in the G.A.P." response: Give, Act, and Pray

We are grieved by the war between Israel and Hamas. There is still work to do for peace and justice. We believe that, working together, justice can prevail. Peace is possible. Since October 7, CMEP has issued [many public statements and letters](#). CMEP Executive Director Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, who preached at First Church on October 15, has been making daily update videos, which [you can watch here](#) to stay updated on pressing news in Gaza, Israel, and the West Bank. Find links to prayer calls, briefings, and donation pages [here](#).



SCAN ME

#### Do you want to follow the hyperlinks, but you're holding a paper bulletin in your hand?

Use your phone's camera to hover over the QR code marked "scan me;" this will take you to the Members & Friends page of our website, where you'll find the bulletin online, as well as links to news, events, and more.



## TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

### Called To Repair: Church-Wide Conversations

Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Join the last in our current series of important and ongoing First Church conversations about our call to the work of truth telling and to the spiritual practice of repair and reparations! We will hear and learn from First Church leaders Linda Ziebell, Martha Cook, and others. Bring your questions, concerns, and hopes about reparations to these interactive sessions as we consider not only our church's history, but our lives, our family histories, and growing efforts in Cambridge and beyond in the work of healing and repair.



### Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders

Today, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., The Well

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 8th and 9th graders continues today with a session entitled "Living in a Religiously Diverse World."

### Back from the Brink:

#### A Presentation on Preventing Nuclear War

Today, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

First Church member Laury Hammel invites everyone to join an important conversation about the global challenge of preventing nuclear war. Dr. Ira Helfand, co-founder of the "Back from the Brink" campaign, will present and lead a discussion about the current danger and what we can do to eliminate it. Dr. Helfand is a past President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, the recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize; a member of the steering committee of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize; and a friend and colleague of Laury's for over 50 years in the work of global peace and disarmament.



### Young Adults: Fresh Pond Walk & Hot Cocoa

Today, 12:15 - 3:00 p.m., Meet up at Coffee Hour

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) for fellowship after church! We'll leave together from Coffee Hour to go for a wintery stroll around Fresh Pond, followed by cocoa at Emma and Owen's apartment. (If the weather is nasty we'll skip straight to the cocoa!) This event is open to anyone in the age group, whether you're just exploring First Church or have been here a while and are looking to meet some new folks. Let Emma Duke know to expect you, and if you're not already on the YA Mailing List you can sign up at: [youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org](mailto:youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

### FAITH & LIFE GROUPS



### Faith & Life Groups: Lent/Spring 2024

#### Call for Leaders by February 5!

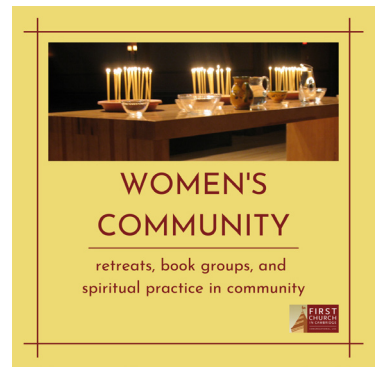
Are you interested in leading a small group over Zoom or in person this Spring? Contact Beth Spaulding (bspaulding68@gmail.com) to discuss your idea. Led by First Church members, Faith & Life Groups are designed to encourage meaningful connections through shared interests, whether exploring a spiritual practice, opening our eyes to the beauty around us, delving into a challenging social issue, or attending to significant life stages (parenting, aging, job transitions, etc.). Faith & Life Groups involve making a short-term commitment (a single session to several weeks, depending on the group).

***Pitch your idea for a Faith & Life Group to Beth by Monday, February 5!***

### Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, February 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

Please join us for an inspiring gathering to discuss [Inciting Joy](#) by Ross Gay. This is a series of essays (and we may choose a few to focus on about which we will let you know!) in which "Ross Gay considers the joy we incite when we care for each other, especially during life's inevitable hardships. Throughout *Inciting Joy*, he explores how we can practice recognizing that connection, and also, crucially, how we expand it." Please join us and be filled with joy!



### Transfiguration: An Art Exhibit

Sunday, February 11 at 12:15 p.m., Chapel

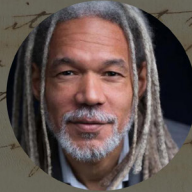
On Transfiguration Sunday, visit the Chapel after worship to take in an exhibit of three paintings that indicate and symbolize the vision seen by the disciples, as found in the lectionary ready today. Artist Henry Gates's display of Trinity provides a moment to reflect on the promise before Lent's preparation for Easter.

# 10 MILLION NAMES, SLAVERY, AND DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES OF NEW ENGLAND

INTRODUCING 10 MILLION NAMES:  
RECOVER. RESTORE. REMEMBER.



KENDRA  
TAIRA FIELD,  
PHD



VINCENT  
BROWN,  
PHD



KERRI  
GREENIDGE,  
PHD



February  
12, 2024  
6:00 PM

First Church in Cambridge  
11 Garden Street  
In-person and streaming online

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.  
REGISTER HERE:



[HTTPS://GO.NPS.GOV/10MILLIONNAMES](https://go.nps.gov/10millionnames)



10 Million  
Names

There are at least 44 million descendants of enslaved individuals living today, but slavery separated families, erased names, and obscured facts. [The 10 Million Names Project](#), launched by American Ancestors and its partners in 2023, aims to connect the family stories of these descendants to the 10 million men, women, and children of African descent who were enslaved in the U.S. prior to emancipation and to restore their names to history. Hear from Dr. Vincent Brown, Dr. Kendra Field, and Dr. Kerri Greenidge, members of the 10 Million Names scholars council, as they share histories and legacies of slavery in New England, the ongoing research of the 10 Million Names project, and ways to get involved. [Register here.](#)

*This event will take place in conjunction with the Slave Legacy History Coalition, a descendant-led history organization; First Church in Cambridge; and Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS



### **Mardi Gras Pancake Supper**

**Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Margaret Jewett Hall**

All are warmly invited to our annual all-church pancake supper on Mardi Gras! Come celebrate with pancakes and maple syrup, a traditional sweet treat on the eve of the Lenten season. The children will decorate our "Alleluia" banner and bury it in the sanctuary, where it will await its unveiling on Easter morning. We'll also hear a preview of our

Lenten programs and formation opportunities. Pancakes will be provided; please bring fruit or breakfast meats (ready for heating or serving) to share. RSVP to [Sarah Higginbotham](#) so she can plan the pancake production.

### **Overt White Supremacy in New England Workshop**

**Sundays, February 18 & 25, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

**First Parish in Cambridge, UU, 3 Church St., Cambridge**

Many of us have thought deeply about the culture of white supremacy in which we have been raised. This two-part workshop will build on this work by focusing on the landscape of overt white supremacist activity in New England. In recent months, local neo-Nazi groups have targeted hotels housing newly-arrived migrants, as well as Gov. Healey's home. Presented by activists from SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), we'll look closely at several groups and individuals, including their tactics and how they have changed over time. We will also discuss the history of Antifa and the culture wars. In the second session we'll move from the conceptual to concrete, discussing what we can do to resist the influence of these groups in our communities. Believing we are not powerless, we'll consider the Spectrum of Resistance, a tool for discussion developed by the Jewish Partisan Foundation. We'll conclude with a discussion about what actions we can take as people of faith.



***Please register by February 5 using this link:***

**[Overt White Supremacy in New England Workshop.](#)**

While it is not required to attend both sessions, we strongly encourage participants to do so if they can.

# FINDING COURAGE IN COMMUNITY



## Lent 2024: Finding Courage in Community

The 40 days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and culminate in Holy Week observance leading up to Easter Sunday, March 31. Here at First Church, our theme for this Lent is Finding Courage in Community. With so much uncertainty ahead, political and otherwise, let's come together to find the courage and resilience that inspires us, connects us, and grounds us in the deep resources and spiritual practices that our faith tradition offers.

As was the case last Lent, we will be surrounded and encouraged by several stunning new portraits on loan from Robert Shetterly and [\*Americans Who Tell the Truth\*](#). Through worship, small groups, and some time set aside for one-to-one after-worship conversations, let's en-courage one another, deepen our community of resistance and resilience, and lean into God's truth and healing for the journey ahead!

## Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Sanctuary and via livestream

On Ash Wednesday, we reflect on our origins in the dust, our brokenness, and our dependence on God. Through a liturgy of readings, song, and prayer, we gather together in the Spirit to acknowledge ashes as a sign of creation, mortality, repentance, and the Cross. Join us in person for our evening service with the imposition of ashes, or participate from home via our livestream.





## LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

### Lenten Formation Series: Courage That Inspires

Sundays, February 18 - March 17, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.

#### Harter Room and via Zoom

We'll begin on the first Sunday of Lent with a general orientation to the liturgical season of Lent by our own Beth Spaulding. Then, join First Church leaders, staff, and guests as they guide us through a time of prayerful meditation and learning from the remarkable lives and stories of various Americans Who Tell the Truth. The four portraits on loan to us this year will be rotated between the Harter Room and Hastings Common so that we may sit with the featured truth teller each week in the Harter Room.



February 18

**The Liturgical Season of Lent, led by Beth Spaulding**

February 25

**Courage that Inspires - Rev. William Barber II**

March 3

**Courage that Inspires - James Baldwin**

March 10

**Courage that Inspires - Pauli Murray**

March 17

**Courage that Inspires - Leah Penniman**

### Lenten Gatherings: Courage That Connects

#### Midweek Soup Suppers

*(specific time and locations coming soon)*

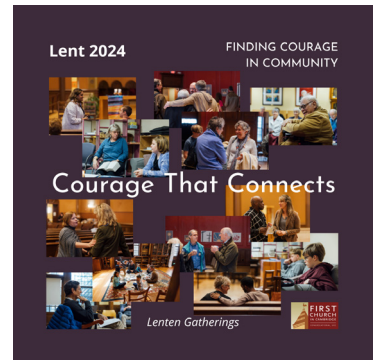
During March, we set some time aside to break bread and find courage and nourishment of body and soul through a series of informal gatherings and conversation that will be hosted both at the Parsonage (44 Garden Street) and in the homes of First Church members. After a meal and a gently guided conversation about where we are needing and finding courage, First Church Deacons will offer a simple ritual of Communion to close out the gathering.

If you'd like to host a soup supper, please contact Dan Smith or Sue Reynolds ([susanreynolds235@gmail.com](mailto:susanreynolds235@gmail.com)) by February 18.

#### After-Worship Conversations

**Sundays, February 18 - March 17 at 12:15 p.m.**

Looking for a simple spiritual practice to take on this Lent? What about a commitment to reaching out to another member of our faith community for 1:1 conversation? Consider sharing your faith journeys, and perhaps some struggles, with each other. We'll have conversation prompts and extra snacks available as you find a quiet spot in the building (or even outside on a walk) for conversation and connection.



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Beware of Phishing Scams

We are observing an uptick in phishing scams impersonating church staff via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from a First Church staff member that requests the password to the online church directory or asks for an email reply because they are in a meeting, please double-check the sending address. Please note that if the sender is using an email address other than an @firstchurchcambridge.org address, it is most likely a scam. Please do not respond! Church staff would never ask for

any kind of donations to be sent directly to them (or directly to others), and they would not ask for passwords. The scammers have been able to pull enough information from church websites to make the email sound legitimate. Scams have become more and more sophisticated! If you are still wondering, please be sure to speak directly with the staff member involved before responding.

### Gospel Explosion Night

Saturday, February 17

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### Memorial Church, Harvard University

The Memorial Church and the Love United Black Fellowship will present an evening of gospel music with Southern University Gospel Choir of Baton Rouge, LA.

The concert is free and open to the public. The performance will also be live streamed on the [Memorial Church YouTube Channel](#).







# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, February 5

4:30 p.m. Contemplative Practices Gathering, via Zoom

## Tuesday, February 6

10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom

6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom

## Wednesday, February 7

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom

4:00 p.m. Gifts Discernment Committee, via Zoom

7:00 p.m. Christian Formation Committee, via Zoom

*See our [Events Calendar](#) for Zoom links and details.*

*Sign up [here](#) to receive our weekly e-newsletter.*

## Thursday, February 8

6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom

## Friday, February 9

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

## Sunday, February 11

9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class for 8/9th graders, The Well

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream

11:20 a.m. Church School: Godly Play, Middler, and Bible 101 classes

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall

12:15 p.m. Transfiguration: An Art Exhibit, Chapel

7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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