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Eastertide  
April 14, 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

### April 14, 2024

<b>Preaching Today</b>	Carla Arevalo, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Beth Spaulding
<b>Leading Worship</b>	Martha Mueller Cook, <i>for Refugee Resettlement Ministry</i>
	Ahmaad Edmund, <i>Pastoral Associate</i>
	Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i>
	Lee Prouty, <i>tech support</i>
	Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bulletin Cover Image</b>	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

### Today's Programs and Events

9:30 a.m.	Leavetaking Gathering, Harter Room
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
7:30 p.m.	Night Song, Sanctuary and <a href="#">via livestream</a>

### 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

**VOLUNTARY**

All Glory Be to God on High

J. S. Bach

**\*HYMN 521**

God in Great Love for Us

**\*GREETING**

Beth Spaulding

L: Siblings in the Spirit, grace and peace to you from God!

**C: From God the Life Giver, peace to you!**

L: Let us praise our God in the presence of Love —

**C: Love divine, stronger than death!**

L: Let us praise God in the companionship of the Risen Christ —

**C: The Risen Christ, source of gentleness, who abides with us now!**

L: Together, let us proclaim God's justice and love for all creation!

## WORDS OF WELCOME

**ANTHEM**

God Be in My Head

Henry Walford Davies

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION TO CONFESSION

### SILENCE

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

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

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

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

**When we walk ahead or behind, instead of with our neighbor,  
open our eyes to their humanity.**

**When we tire of the struggle, and tomorrow feels overwhelming,  
restore our hope and renew our courage,**

**In the name of Jesus, our brother, Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*\*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.*

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

**\*HYMN 426**

I've Got Peace Like a River

*There is no Church School today. Young children are invited to join the Nursery in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) if they do not wish to remain in worship.*

**OPENING THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Ahmaad Edmund

**READING**

Luke 24:36b-48

**READING**

John 3:1-7

**SERMON**

Carla Arevalo

**\*HYMN 421**

Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense

**SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kate Layzer

**MINISTRY MOMENT**

Martha Mueller Cook

**PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD**

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 in words most meaningful to your heart.*

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not**

**into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

*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 from your  
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



## OFFERTORY

Alleluia

William Boyce

## \*DOXOLOGY

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,  
do thou thyself our hearts possess;  
that we may give thee all our days  
the willing tribute of our praise!**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### GOING FORTH

## \*HYMN 352

Go Forth for God

## \*BENEDICTION

## VOLUNTARY

All Glory Be to God on High

J. S. Bach

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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 Massachusetts people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusetts, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.*



SCAN ME

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

God in Great Love for Us

521

1. God in great love for us lent us this plan - et, gave it a  
 2. Thanks be to God for its boun - ty and beau - ty, life that sus -  
 3. Long have our hu - man wars ru - ined its har - vest; long has earth  
 4. God owns the earth: it is ours to en - joy it, ours, as God's

pur - pose in time and in space: small as a spark from the  
 tains us in bod - y and mind: plen - ty for all, if we  
 bowed to the ter - ror of force; long have we wast - ed what  
 stew - ards, to farm and de - fend. From its pol - lu - tion, mis -

fire of cre - a - tion, cra - dle of life and the home of our race.  
 learn how to share it, rich - es un - dreamed of to fath - om and find.  
 oth - ers have need of, poi - soned the foun - tain of life at its source.  
 use and de - struc - tion, our God, de - liv - er us, world with - out end!



PEACE HYMN

426

I've Got Peace Like a River

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
 2. I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a  
 3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an  
 4. I've got faith like an an - chor, I've got faith like an

1.  
 riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er, in - a my  
 foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain, in - a my  
 o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean, in - a my  
 an - chor, I've got faith like an an - chor, in - a my

2.  
 soul. I've got riv - er in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got foun-tain in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got o - cean in - a my soul.  
 soul. I've got an - chor in - a my soul.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

PEACE LIKE A RIVER  
 77.10 D

Spirituals draw heavily from Old Testament imagery, including 'peace like a river' from Isaiah 48:18. The New Testament also provided imagery for this song in the fruits of the Spirit—love, joy and peace (Galatians 5:22).

SERMON HYMN

# 421 Not with Naked Eye, Not with Human Sense

*Unison*

1. Not with na - ked eye, not with hu - man sense:  
2. God is al - ways near, but is nev - er seen:  
3. Chil - dren learn of God trust - ing what they feel;  
4. Thom - as saw the Christ break - ing earth's rou - tine;  
5. Not with craft - ed scope, not with crys - tal lens:

through the eye of faith ob - serve om - ni - po - tence.  
Source of heaven and earth and all that lies be - tween.  
touch - ing, tast - ing, seek - ing, find - ing what is real.  
blessed are those who trust the Ho - ly One un - seen.  
vi - sion of the Christ be - gins where see - ing ends.



CLOSING HYMN

Go Forth for God

352

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good  
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strength - en the  
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the  
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's

cour - age, armed with heav - en - ly grace, in God's good Spir - it  
 faint, give cour - age to the weak; help the af - flict - ed;  
 good, be ur - gent for the right; ren - der to no one  
 peo - ple ev - ery day and hour, and serv - ing Christ, our

dai - ly to in - crease, till in the king - dom we be - hold God's  
 rich - ly from a - bove God's love sup - plies the grace and power we  
 e - vil; Christ at length shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his  
 ev - 'ry gift em - ploy, re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's

face. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
 seek. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
 light. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
 power. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

WORDS: John Raphael Peacey, 1975  
 MUSIC: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

OLD 124th  
 10 10.10 10.10

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for the family and friends of longtime First Church member Alice Kidder, who died peacefully on March 10, surrounded by family and following an extended time of declining health.
- We pray for First Church 2nd grader Grant Baker and his family as Grant recovers from a recent scheduled surgery.
- We pray for Mike Wendelin and his family as they grieve the unexpected death of Mike's brother Phil.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Poppy Coffin, who is experiencing Alzheimer's Disease; Carol Wilson-Braun, who is managing ALS; Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder; and George Williams, who is still recovering from interventions following a brain bleed. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: 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; Lisa DiNardo's friend Graziella Macchetta; 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 especially for the people of Taiwan and surrounding countries in the wake of a deadly 7.4 magnitude earthquake. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for redoubled efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where ongoing armed conflicts have led to more than 6 million people killed and more than 5 million people displaced from their homes. We pray also for those who have experienced devastating incidents of gender-based violence during the conflicts.
- We pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval, throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, and in Sudan. We pray especially for the people of Haiti, given the heart-wrenching turmoil and gang-related violence leading to the near-collapse of the government and human services sector.
- We pray for political and climate refugees and migrants who make often life-threatening border crossings over land and open water. We pray for wisdom and justice to prevail as our court system tackles issues of immigration in its rulings.
- 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 continue to 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.

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.*



### **In Memoriam**

A memorial service for beloved First Church member Alice Kidder will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 20, in the Sanctuary and via livestream, with a reception to follow in Margaret Jewett Hall.

### **Prayer for Israel and Palestine**

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, and as the threat of famine in Gaza looms, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1400 Israelis and over 33,000 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.



**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

### Transition at First Church: Leavetaking Gathering

Today, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

As we move through a season of pastoral transition, the Leavetaking Team offers an opportunity to meet in a small group to hold each other's thoughts, worries, ideas, hopes, and feelings. See other dates and times for gatherings on the following page.



### Night Song

Sundays, 7:30 - 8:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Night Song is a worship opportunity that offers stillness and sublime music in a darkened sanctuary for respite and reset... [Read more about Night Song.](#)

### Invitation to Contribute to Coffee Hour

Please help us make worship as delicious as it is spiritually sustaining! For Coffee Hour each week we are looking for 3-4 households to bring 3 dozen cookies each, or the equivalent of snacks such as cheese & crackers or fruit. In general, the church has a No Nuts policy. If possible, please include a brief list of relevant ingredients for those with allergies. [SIGN UP HERE.](#) Questions? Difficulty with the online signup? Contact Lisa DiNardo at: [ladinardo@hotmail.com](mailto:ladinardo@hotmail.com).



## Friday Café spring clothing drive



MEN'S & WOMEN'S SHORT-SLEEVED SHIRTS, TEES, BUTTON-DOWNS, JEANS, SHORTS, LIGHT JACKETS, HOODIES, CAPS, SNEAKERS, AND SANDALS.

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT:



[www.thefriday.cafe](http://www.thefriday.cafe)

PLEASE BAG ITEMS, LABEL THEM "FRIDAY CAFÉ," AND DROP OFF IN THE LOBBY OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE, 11 GARDEN ST.

### Friday Café Spring Clothing Drive

The Friday Café welcomes donations of gently used casual clothing for the spring season. Right now we have an especially urgent need for men's pants. Please consider checking your closets, visiting your local thrift store on our behalf, or ordering from our [Amazon wish list](#), where we've listed men's basic jeans in a few different sizes. Thank you for helping our guests meet this very essential need!

Visit [thefriday.cafe](http://thefriday.cafe) for full details on donating.

## TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

### Schedule a Meeting with Dan

As I share in [this followup letter](#) to my February 4 farewell letter, my last Sunday in worship will be June 9. I hope to see many of you there, and before as well! Starting in late April, I'm clearing much of my weekday schedule for 1:1s and small group meetings with as many of you as possible. This is time for whatever you may need—a last pastoral check-in, a chance to wrap up a shared project, a time to laugh and/or cry together, a goodbye hug. Please visit [my Calendly site](#) to pick a time and place, via Zoom or in person!



- Dan Smith



### Update from the Interim Search Team

As the Interim Search Team, we are tasked with finding a full-time interim minister, who will provide pastoral leadership after Dan leaves and as we seek to call a “settled” minister. We are following the UCC Call Process for interim ministers. We have begun to review the ministerial profiles of the candidates sent to us from the Southern New England Conference office. We expect that we will begin initial interviews shortly. We are engaged and excited for our next steps in this process. We look forward to the time when we can share the successful conclusion of the interim search.

- Jim Cairns, Claire Morgan, Stephen Weller, and Linda Ziebell

### Leavetaking Gatherings

The Leavetaking Team is offering opportunities to meet one-to-one or in small groups to hold each other's thoughts, worries, ideas, hopes, and feelings about Senior Minister Dan Smith's departure. See the times and places offered in the coming weeks; please [RSVP via this form](#) for the gathering you wish to attend. We look forward to spending time with you.



#### Sunday, April 14

9:30 a.m., Harter Room  
hosted by Bruce Hoppe

#### Monday, April 15

3:00 p.m., Watertown  
hosted by Alex Steinert-Evoy at her home  
5:00 p.m., via Zoom  
hosted by Amy Matias

#### Wednesday, April 17

7:00 p.m., via Zoom  
hosted by Alex Steinert-Evoy

#### Thursday, April 18

7:00 p.m., via Zoom  
hosted by Beth Spaulding

#### Friday, April 19

3:00 p.m., Nubar (Sheraton Commander)  
hosted by Beth Spaulding

#### Sunday, April 21

9:30 a.m., Harter Room  
hosted by Bruce Hoppe

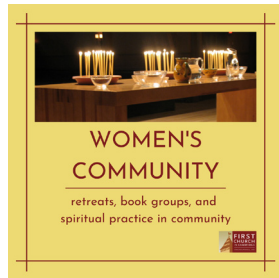


## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, April 16, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., via Zoom**

Join Ginny Harlan, Martha Cook, and Dan Smith for a monthly support group where we offer each other companionship and spiritual resources as we grow into our elderhood. We are using Joan Chittister's book *The Gift of Years* as a starting point to conversation and reflection, and our reading for this month is "Relationships" (pp. 79-83). Please remember to come prepared to share a passage from the reading that is particularly compelling for you. You are also welcome to join at any time; homework is not a requirement for participation!



### Women's Community Book Group

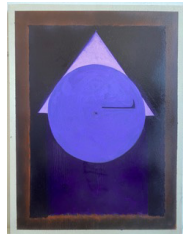
**Tuesday, April 16, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., via Zoom**

Please join the women of FCC for a rip-roaring discussion of Drew Gilpin Faust's [\*Necessary Trouble: Growing Up at Midcentury\*](#). This is a memoir by the former president of Harvard that describes her life as "a privileged white girl in conservative, segregated Virginia [who] was expected to adopt a willful blindness to the inequities of race and the constraints of gender. The acceptance of both female subordination and racial hierarchy proved intolerable and galvanizing, [and] she found resistance was necessary for her survival." As we think of our own roles in society, Faust's book is a great inspiration!

### Art Exhibit for Earth Day

**Sunday, April 21, Margaret Jewett Hall**

The seven days of Creation are symbolized in seven paintings by First Church member Henry Gates. A constant form carries a message through the color spectrum as we behold the fragile earth. Come view the art, and reflect on our stewardship of planet Earth.



### Newcomers Gathering

**Sunday, April 21 at 12:15 p.m., Harter Room**

We are hosting a drop-in opportunity to explore what membership at First Church in Cambridge means and to learn more about the history and values of our community. There will be time for us to wrestle with questions, build deeper connections with one another, and help each other feel more oriented to this place of belonging and becoming. For those who are ready to join, this will also be a time to review our joining liturgy and receive answers any questions you may have. Current members of First Church who are interested in engaging in these conversations and in being a resource for those who are newer are invited to join! Come with your questions, your story, and your appetite for new connections. Light snacks will be provided.

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



### Reparations in Cambridge

**Sunday, April 21, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall**

Learn about reparations in Cambridge and a new Reparationist Club. Join local community members for an interactive discussion on how the City of Cambridge is approaching reparations and pathways to repair harm from the racial caste system. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn further on transitional justice, human rights, caste, transnational solidarity, and reparations through monthly Reparationist Club meetings

held by local reparative justice organization, [Grow to Consume](http://GrowtoConsume.org). Please register here:

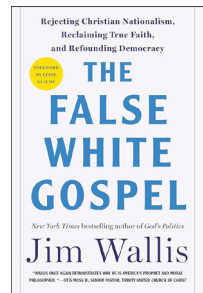
[bit.ly/repaircambridgemarch](http://bit.ly/repaircambridgemarch)

### Jim Wallis presents *The False White Gospel*

**Sunday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

**University Lutheran Church, 66 Winthrop St., Cambridge**

Jim Wallis is a writer, preacher, and justice advocate who believes the gospel of Jesus must be transformed from its cultural and political captivities, and always be “good news” to the poor and oppressed. He is a *New York Times* bestselling author, public theologian, renowned preacher, and commentator on ethics and public life. For more information about this free public event, contact: [office2@unilu.org](mailto:office2@unilu.org).



### Refugee Ministry Welcome Center Opens April 23

First Church is hosting a Welcome Center on Tuesdays, April 23 & 30 and May 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to welcome migrant families living at the recently-opened MA Safety Net Family Shelter in East Cambridge. These families need to vacate the shelter every weekday, and we hope to provide a safe and welcoming space that includes a midday meal, ESOL classes, childcare for children aged 0-4 (who are not old enough for school), information on free City family resources, and time for relaxing and socializing.

To make this happen - we need volunteers! We especially need:

- Two people for childcare
- Translators for Haitian Creole and Spanish
- People to manage the meal
- Volunteers for set-up and logistics
- In addition, there is an “off-site” need for someone to compile info on Cambridge family resources (playgrounds, waterparks, etc.) to share; much of this information is available on City websites.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please reach out to Martha Cook at:

[marthamuellercook@gmail.com](mailto:marthamuellercook@gmail.com)

## EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

### **Celebrating Past and Present: A 20-Year Look-Back Sunday, April 28, and May 5, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Harter Room and via Zoom**

Join Dan Smith, Lindsay Miller, and Perry and Susie Neubauer (among others) to share in a guided look-back at our shared ministry these past 20-plus years! We'll start with some stories about past ministers, leaders, and earlier generations of First Church, who gave us a firm foundation for our current strength and vitality. We'll also share highlights of how the Spirit has been alive and guiding us in recent decades. How are we different from who we were 25 years ago? How are we the same? How is our past leading us toward future generations of First Church and its leaders? Come share your reflections, and help us weave together this ongoing story of life in community, transitions and all.



### **A Blessing of Names**

**Sunday, May 12 at 11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary and via livestream**

Please join us for Morning Worship on Sunday, May 12, when we will offer a trans- and nonbinary-affirming Blessing of Names liturgy and ritual. We invite members of our community to be re-welcomed into the church using the name that best reflects who they are. Trans and nonbinary folks whose names have not changed are also welcome to participate and receive a blessing of who you are. First Church members have been participating in a cohort of Southern New England UCC churches working towards becoming trans- and nonbinary-affirming churches. A Faith & Life Group has also been assembled on this topic. The Blessing of Names will be our first time bringing this work into the wider First Church community. Please let Lisa McCarty ([lisa.j.mccarty@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.j.mccarty@gmail.com)) know by Sunday, May 5, if you would like to participate.

## LOOKING AHEAD



*Saying Farewell  
to our*  
Pastoral Associates



## Ahmaad Edmund & Carla Arevalo

Sunday, May 19

9:30 a.m. Farewell Gathering, Harter Room and via Zoom

11:00 a.m. Leavetaking Ritual in Morning Worship, Sanctuary



### Saying Farewell to Pastoral Associates Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo Sunday, May 19, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m., Harter Room and via Zoom

Amidst a wider season of staff transition at First Church, we are preparing to celebrate and say farewell to our two wonderful Pastoral Associates, Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo. Please find some time in the coming weeks to say thank you and goodbye to Carla and Ahmaad. On May 19, Pentecost Sunday, we will have a formal leavetaking ritual! For our 9:30 hour that day, we will share in a time of celebration of their ministry and wishing them well for their future endeavors. Ahmaad is heading to Washington, DC for a fellowship with the Faith and Politics Institute. Carla (who will be with us for two more Sundays through June 2) is heading to North Carolina with her fiancé for a Ph.D program at the University of North Carolina.

*Stay tuned for more details about  
Dan's Farewell on June 9.*

Join us to celebrate  
20 years of ministry!

## DAN'S FAREWELL PARTY

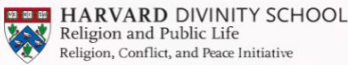
Sunday, June 9, 2024  
Worship at 11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary and via livestream  
Party at 12:15 p.m.  
Margaret Jewett Hall  
First Church in Cambridge  
11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA

All are welcome!



Spring  
2024

RELIGION, CONFLICT, AND PEACE  
**BOOK SERIES**



**DECOLONIZING PALESTINE: THE LAND, THE PEOPLE, THE BIBLE**

This book talk will feature “Decolonizing Palestine: The Land, The People, The Bible” by Mitri Raheb.

“Decolonizing Palestine” challenges the weaponization of biblical texts to support the current settler-colonial state of Israel. Raheb argues that some of the most important theological concepts—Israel, the land, election, and chosen people—must be decolonized in a paradigm shift in Christian theological thinking about Palestine.

“Decolonizing Palestine” is a timely book that builds on the latest research in settler-colonialism and human rights to place traditional theological themes within the wider socio-political context of settler colonialism as it is practiced by the modern nation-state of Israel. Written by a native Palestinian Christian theologian who continues to live in the region, “Decolonizing Palestine” provides an insider’s perspective that disrupts hegemonic and imperialist narratives about the region.

Featuring Rev. Prof. Mitri Raheb, Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem  
Moderated by Diane L. Moore, Associate Dean of Religion and Public Life

The book will be available for purchase at the event. Lunch will be provided.

Tuesday, April 16  
12:00–1:30pm, Register  CSWR Common Room  
42 Francis Ave.





## WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Join the UCC Earth Day Summit Featuring Bill McKibben!

This online event will take place on Saturday, April 20, at 1:00 p.m. ET. In addition to a keynote delivered by McKibben, this two and a half hour summit will feature a panel of award-winning grassroots activists in a David-versus-Goliath struggle against one of the world's largest producers of plastics. [Register now!](#)



**The 3rd Bob Moses Conference Experience will be held virtually on April 27 and 28, 2024, and will focus on education and mass incarceration.** We anticipate that the conference will contribute to building a platform for grassroots activism and policies crafted to truly undo the remnants of slavery. In order to chart a new course, we must understand where we have been. The Bob Moses Legacy Conference series is a serious attempt to support the thinking and doing necessary to help the country move in the direction of building a democracy in the spirit of Reconstruction. This is the work we would like to take on. [Register here.](#)

*Supported by The Bob Moses Fund of the Cambridge Community Foundation, by donations from participants, and collaborating organizations and institutions.*



# THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



## Monday, April 15

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

## Tuesday, April 16

10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom  
1:30 p.m. Beloved Community, via Zoom  
3:00 p.m. Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting, via Zoom  
6:00 p.m. Women's Community Book Group, via Zoom  
7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: MLK Book Study, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

## Wednesday, April 17

9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting, Harter Room and via Zoom  
6:30 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Reparations Book Group, via Zoom  
7:30 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

## Thursday, April 18

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

## Friday, April 19

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

## Saturday, April 20

11:00 a.m. Memorial Service for Alice Kidder, Sanctuary and via livestream

## Sunday, April 21

9:30 a.m. Art Exhibit for Earth Day, MJH  
9:30 a.m. Leavetaking Gathering, Harter Room  
10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream  
11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop, MJH  
12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall  
1:00 p.m. Reparations in Cambridge, MJH  
7:30 p.m. Night Song, Sanctuary and via livestream

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

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

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