



Pentecost
May 19, 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.

May 19, 2024

Leading Worship

Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*
Ahmaad Edmund, *Pastoral Associate*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*
Phil Jones, *Vice Moderator and Confirmation Class Teacher*
Leslie Pelton-Cairns, *Deacon*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

FIRST CHURCH
IN CAMBRIDGE
CONGREGATIONAL
388 YEARS
ON THE WAY
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Saying Farewell to Our Pastoral Associates, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 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 class, Library
- 12:15 p.m. Refreshments and Cake Reception in Margaret Jewett Hall
- 12:30 p.m. Conversation with Community Minister Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher, Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)
- 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

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

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

Come, Holy Spirit

J. S. Bach

***HYMN 439**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

***GREETING**

Emma Thomas

L: Beloved siblings, peace to you!
And glory to the Spirit, who descends upon us now:
C: to make music in our hearts,
L: to sing God's love with our tongues,
C: to dance prayers in our souls,
L: to plant hope with our hands,
C: to inspire joy in everything we do!
L: For each of us is Your Beloved,
C: and gathered, we are Your Church.
All: Let us lift up our hearts in worship and praise!

WORDS OF WELCOME

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

SUNG PRAYER

Spirit of the Living God

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

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

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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

***GREETING OF PEACE**

***HYMN 403**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

**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.*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

INVITATION AND BAPTISMAL PROMISES

Dan Smith and Carla Arevalo

*THE CONGREGATION'S PROMISES

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

- L: Jesus Christ welcomes everyone who desires new life into the faith and family of Christ.
Do you who witness this sacrament promise these sibling and parents your love, support and care?
- C: We do!**
- L: Will you help them grow in faith and witness with them to the love and mercy of Christ?
- C: We will, with the help of God!**

BLESSING OF THE WATER

THE BAPTISMS

Wesley Dane Morgan
Christian Searcy Baker
Rosalia Clair Whaley

*PRAYER OF BLESSING

- L: Friends, let us ask God for a blessing!
- C: Holy God, Creator of us all, give to these children strength for life's journey, courage in the time of trial, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the comfort of everlasting life.
And may the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forevermore. Amen.**

*SONG

Amen, Amen

Children in Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find their children in the Chapel after worship. Older students are invited to remain in worship for the rest of the service.

Congregation/choir

The musical score is written for a congregation or choir. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men! A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men!'.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988

AMEN
Irr.

THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION AND JOINING BY COVENANT

CONFIRMANDS' PROMISES

Carla Arevalo and Phil Jones

Christian Searcy Baker, Jr.
Amelia Grace Clark
Malcolm Hendren Funck
Imogene McManus Goode
Carter Massa Lee
Leo Peter Neurath
Callum Lawton Pelton-Cairns
Nicholas Daniel Stauffer
Rosalia Clair Whaley

L: Christian, Milly, Malcolm, Imme, Carter, Leo, Callum, Nick, and Rose are asking to be confirmed in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. You have heard the promises they have made. What is your will?

All: By God's grace, they are worthy. Let them be confirmed!

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

LAYING ON OF HANDS

INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

Lindsey and Chris Baker
Judah Coffman
Elizabeth Gates
Mackenzie Joy

NEW MEMBERS' PROMISES

ADDRESS TO CONFIRMANDS AND NEW MEMBERS

*COVENANT OF FIRST CHURCH IN CAMBRIDGE

**All: We who are now brought together
and united into one Church
under the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head,
in such sort as becometh
all those whom he hath redeemed
and sanctified to himself,
do solemnly and religiously,
as in his most holy presence,
promise and bind ourselves to walk in all his ways
according to the rule of the Gospel,
and in all sincere conformity to his holy ordinances,
and in mutual love and respect each to other,
so near as God shall give us grace.**

***WELCOME**

***SONG**

Amen, Amen

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Acts 2:1-17

REFLECTION

Carla Arevalo and Phil Jones

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

TESTIMONY

Mónica Maher

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

Ahmaad Edmund

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

God's Gift on Pentecost

Mac Howland

***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 228

O Holy Dove of God Descending

LEAVETAKING BLESSING FOR CARLA AREVALO AND AHMAAD EDMUND

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Come, Holy Spirit

J. S. Bach

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Lindsey and Chris Baker are the parents of three amazing children: Christian, Lindalee, and Grant. Chris grew up in Florida, where he met Lindsey after college. He currently works on building a tech company that he started earlier this year that aims to help first-time homebuyers with the homebuying process. Lindsey works as the occupational therapist for a local non-profit, enriching her life through serving adults with physical and intellectual disabilities. When not in Cambridge, the whole family can be found in New Hampshire, at their camp on the lake where Lindsey grew up. Lindsey and Chris are grateful for the community at First Church and look forward to becoming more involved.

Judah Coffman (he/they) works as the Christian Education Director at First Church in Somerville, but attends Night Song here at First Church in Cambridge. He wears many hats as Office Administrator at Newton Highlands Congregational church, as a private voice instructor at Brimmer & May School in Chestnut Hill, and as a performing musician around Boston. He received his doctorate in music from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, specializing in European music of the Renaissance and early Baroque periods. Judah is currently discerning a call to ministry, specifically to serve as a chaplain for young people in crisis. In his free time, he enjoys improvising music and watching “so-bad-it’s-good” movies with his partner Leo and great friend, Jules.

Mackenzie Joy is excited to become a member of First Church on Pentecost! Mackenzie attended First Church for the first time in September 2023, and was drawn to this vibrant, creative, radically inclusive community of worship. She is deeply grateful to have been baptized by Rev. Dan here on November 12, and to join in what Carter West has described as the “holy circle of conversation” that is the weekly Bible study group. Mackenzie is looking forward to worshipping and participating in the life of the church as a member of the congregation.

OPENING HYMN

439

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain

Ev - ery time I feel the Spir - it mov - ing in my

heart I will pray. Yes, ev - ery time I feel the

Fine

Spir - it mov - ing in my heart I will pray.

1. Up - on the moun - tain, when my Lord spoke, Out of God's
 2. O Jor - dan riv - er is chil - ly and cold, it chills the
 3. O I have heart - ache and I have woe, and I have

mouth came fire and smoke. Looked all a - round me,
 bod - y, not the soul. There's on - ly one train
 trou - ble here be - low. But while God leads me,

to Refrain

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

403

1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;
 2. Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;
 3. Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;
 4. Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
 in my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

O Holy Dove of God Descending

228

Unison



1. O ho-ly Dove of God de-scend-ing, you are the love that knows no end-ing,
2. O ho-ly Wind of God now blow-ing, you are the seed that God is sow-ing,
3. O ho-ly Rain of God now fall - ing, you make the Word of God en-thrall-ing,
4. O ho-ly Flame of God now burn-ing, you are the power of Christ re-turn - ing,



all of our shat - tered dreams you're mend - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the life that starts us grow - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the in - ner voice now call - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.
 you are the an - swer to our yearn - ing: Spir-it, now live in me.



WORDS and MUSIC: Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1976

LOIS
99.96

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We give thanks for Confirmands and new members, who have found a home here at First Church.
- We pray for Sally O'Brien as she prepares for a second brain surgery on May 28 to address essential tremors.
- We pray for Marieke Van Damme, who is recovering at home from surgery after breaking her foot in two places.
- We pray for George Williams, who is recovering in the hospital following a fall and ongoing complications from a traumatic brain injury.
- We celebrate with all our high school, college, and graduate students who are graduating in the coming weeks, including Peter Wilson-Braun, who graduated yesterday from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- 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; and Carter West, who is experiencing a chronic neurological disorder. We also pray for those in treatment for cancer: Dana Hunt, Claire Morgan's mother; 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 also pray for migrant families living at the MA Safety Net Family Shelter in East Cambridge.
- In the midst of solidarity protests at colleges and universities, here and across the nation, we pray for the ongoing protection of free speech, for student and campus safety, for nonviolent action and responses, and for increased understanding and openness to dialogue across division.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate related disasters, especially the tornadoes in the southeastern US. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.
- 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.

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 1,400 Israelis and over 35,000 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.

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.

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



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.



SCAN ME

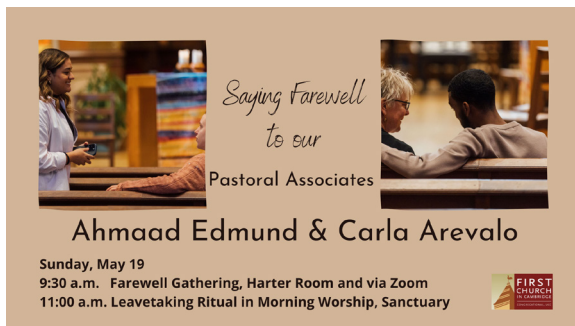
TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Saying Farewell to Pastoral Associates

Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo

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

Come share in a time of celebration and say farewell to our two wonderful Pastoral Associates. Ahmaad Edmund and Carla Arevalo. We will lift up their ministry with us and wish 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.



Today is Confirmation Sunday

On Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the church, and this year, we mark the day with the Rite of Confirmation and joining of new members. Nine young people in our community have been meeting throughout the year to learn about our tradition and consider their own understanding of their faith. Join us to celebrate their spiritual journeys, to witness two baptisms, and to welcome them into membership by covenant. Then, head to Margaret Jewett Hall for a cake reception in their honor!

Art Exhibit for Pentecost, Today, Margaret Jewett Hall

Pentecost announces “Ordinary Time.” We Christians are sent forth to practice the Way of Jesus over warm months that summer us through autumn. First Church member and artist Henry Gates portrays our ordinary time in twenty paintings of psyche in society, concerning the sequence of Sundays that exist between the sacred seasons. The art provides a psychological look at the lives we live, sharing our community challenges.



Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher Pentecost Testimony & After-Worship Presentation Today, 12:30 - 1:15 p.m., Harter Room and [via Zoom](#)

Community Minister in Latin America Rev. Dr. Mónica Maher will be with us to share a testimony during Morning Worship and a presentation about her current work after church in the Harter Room. Mónica is a Social Ethicist with decades of professional experience in Latin America. Since 2010, she has been a Visiting Professor in the graduate programs of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences. She is the Founder and Senior Minister of the United Church of Ecuador and Founding Director of the Ecuadorian Faith Network.

[Read more about Mónica on our website.](#)

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH



Final Night Song of the 2023-24 Season

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

Night Song will end its program year this evening. You are invited to come in person or online to hear all three ensembles of Night Song sing together. Night Song is a compline service, an ancient monastic liturgy which has gained in popularity in the US over the past 50 years. The music is ancient and modern chant, Renaissance polyphony, some contemporary anthems, and the psalm settings of First Church Staff Composer Patty Van Ness. All are welcome!

Refugee Ministry Update: First Church Provides Space and Volunteers for Welcome to Newly Arrived Families

We are pleased that First Church has built a strong relationship with partners at the state and local level. Because of this, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, along with [Immigrant Family Services Institute \(IFSI\)](#), its contracted case management agency, started renting space at First Church this past week, and will continue each Monday-Thursday through June 20. While we are not holding our own Welcome Center on Tuesdays for the moment, IFSI still wants our help! [See the full list of volunteer roles here](#). Reach out to Martha Cook at: marthamuellercook@gmail.com

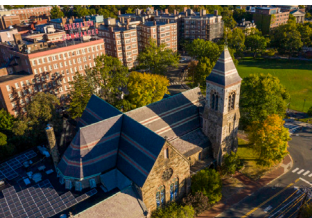


Volunteers are needed each Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., May 20 - June 20.

It is fine if you can attend only one day during the period or are able to volunteer more days. There are only 5 more weeks to help out with this new initiative!

Rolling Luggage Needed

We would like to provide rolling suitcases (or rolling duffles) to families for storing and moving around with their belongings. If you can donate any rolling luggage, please let us know!



Debt Retirement Appeal: May 2024 Update

It is time to turn our attention once again to the effort to retire the debt from our Cornerstone loan that helped finance the renovations to the church house. Our goal with this appeal has been to pay off the loan as quickly as possible to remove the burden of ongoing loan payments on our operating budget, freeing up resources to support First Church's ministry with a sustainable leadership and staffing model into the future...

[Read more in the Latest News section of our website.](#)

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



Aging with Grace Monthly Meeting

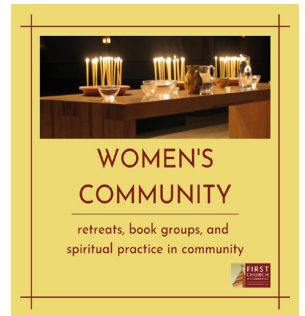
Tuesday, May 21, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m., Harter Room

Join Ginny Harlan, Martha Mueller Cook, and Dan Smith for a monthly support group where we offer each other companionship and spiritual resources as we grow into our elderhood. In this special season of our lives, let's explore together some of those questions. May 21 will be our last session until September, and we will be appreciating and bidding farewell to Dan. 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 "Possibility" (pp. 55-58). Please remember to think about a passage from the reading that is particularly compelling for you that you'd like to share. You are also welcome to join at any time; homework is not a requirement for participation!

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, May 21, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., [via Zoom](#)

We will join together to read Flannery O'Connor's novel [Wise Blood](#). Often known for her short stories, this is O'Connor's first novel that turned out to be quite successful. "This tale of redemption, retribution, false prophets, blindness, blindings, and wisdom gives us one of the most riveting characters in American fiction." Please come jump in with us, even if you haven't been with us this year.



Blessing Our Community Ministers

Sunday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

As part of Morning Worship on Sunday, May 26, we will honor and give thanks for our [Community Ministers](#). First Church is blessed to be a spiritual home for at least 18 ordained clergy. Many share their gifts with us from week to week in ways large and small.

Some are retired, or semi-retired, while others are actively serving in chaplaincy and ministry settings outside of First Church. Join us as we celebrate them all, whether in person or in spirit, and give thanks for their ministries and presence in our midst!

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Thursday, May 30, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Cambridge Common Restaurant

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship and happy hour drinks at Cambridge Common on Mass Ave!

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: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.



THE SEASON OF PENTECOST



Children's Sunday, June 2

On Children's Sunday, we are led in liturgy by younger voices, and we celebrate their contributions to our multigenerational faith community. This year, our 6th and 7th graders will present "A Gospel Play" as the culmination of their two-year Bible 101 class. We will also recognize our 4th graders with their own Bibles as they "graduate" from Godly Play, and we will lift up the volunteer teachers, who make our Church School run.

Piano Music Giveaway

Sunday, June 2, 12:15 - 12:45 p.m., Margaret Jewett Hall

Carol Wilson-Braun will be hosting another giveaway of a wide assortment of piano music (both sheet music and books) after worship on June 2. Selections include adult and child level music, duets, Christmas music, etc. Everyone is invited to take a look, especially children, adult piano players, and piano teachers. The music is free, but if you feel so moved, a contribution could be directed to First Church's Frobenius Organ Fund or to the music program of the church.



Support Cathy Patton in the MA Special Olympics!

First Church member Cathy Patton will be competing in a Track & Field walking event at the Massachusetts Special Olympics, taking place at Harvard Stadium on June 7-9. She warmly invites us to attend and cheer her on! For more information, please visit: www.specialolympicsma.org

Rev. Lexi Boudreaux's Installation

Sunday, June 9 at 3:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church in Hopkinton, NH

Our beloved former Transitional Minister is to be installed in her settled role, and we are invited to celebrate with her! The First Congregational Church of Hopkinton, NH and the Merrimack Association of the United Church of Christ joyfully invite you to attend the Service of Installation of Rev. Alexandra Boudreaux as the Pastor of First Congregational Church of Hopkinton in New Hampshire. Please join us for a celebratory reception following the Installation Service. Alternatively, the service will be livestreamed, making it possible for FCC folks who plan to participate in Dan's farewell to witness Lexi's celebration virtually. If you do plan to attend the installation in person, [please RSVP using this form](#) or RSVP via email to: office@firstchurchhopkinton.org



TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

Staffing Update

We have good news to share! Ministerial Intern **Emma Thomas** has agreed to be a Pastoral Associate for the coming year, working 25 hours a week. She will participate in worship at least 2 Sundays per month (as she currently does), preach, lead Christian formation, work with new members, and more. She will end her time as Ministerial Intern on Sunday, June 16, and take a break for the summer. She will begin as our Pastoral Associate on Sunday, September 1. Let's give a warm, heartfelt, and ongoing welcome to Emma and her extraordinary gifts!



In addition, after Dan leaves and until the Interim Minister begins their term (hopefully, by late August), our Director of Operations **Kirsten Manville**, who is already full-time and oversees much of our current staff, will serve as Acting Head of Staff. While Kirsten won't take on pastoral duties, she is able to coordinate pastoral care coverage as the need arises. Dan is currently pre-planning the summer preaching and on-call pastoral care schedule with program staff and Community Ministers. Please take an opportunity to thank all of our current staff for their extra efforts during this transition time.



Pastoral Care During Our Transition

With Dan and our Pastoral Associates leaving soon, some of you may wonder who will be available for pastoral care in the coming months of leadership transition. As always, feel free to reach out to current program staff Kate Layzer, Karen McArthur, and Sarah Higginbotham, all of whom are available to offer support and/or direct you to someone who can. To reach a minister on-call, please dial **617-547-2724 ext. 222**. We are also grateful to these

Community Ministers, who have expressed their availability to provide periodic pastoral care conversations through the summer: Reverends Liz Williams, Krysia Burnham, Ingeborg Haug, Alex Steinert-Evoy, Jenny Stuart, and Beth Spaulding. You may reach out to any of them via email, which can be found in the Parish List on our website.

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

TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Staffing and Building Hours

As many of you know, longtime sexton George Williams has been on medical leave for many months as he has been experiencing a difficult recovery from a traumatic brain injury. Additionally, our Sunday morning sexton Jonathan Splaine will not be working this summer as he focuses on some pressing family matters. We are grateful to sextons Steve Brown, Douglas Casey, and Kevin Newell, as well as Facilities Manager Lee Prouty, for stepping up and taking on more hours over the past months to make sure we have the coverage our busy building needs.



Because of our limited staffing and the slower building pace during the summer, we will reduce our building hours starting in June. On most Saturdays in June, the building will close at 6:00 p.m., and on most Sundays in June, the building will close at 3:00 p.m. In July and August, our hours are further reduced. On most weekdays, the building will close at 7:00 p.m. On most Saturdays, the building will close at 4:00 p.m., and on most Sundays, at 3:00 p.m. Closing times may vary if there are previously scheduled events taking place. If you have questions about the summer building schedule, please contact [Director of Operations Kirsten Manville](#).

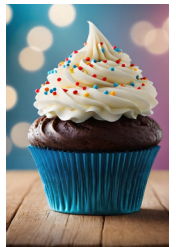


Dan Smith's Farewell Sunday, June 9

On Sunday, June 9, we will celebrate Dan's 20 years of ministry at First Church in Cambridge. Our Morning Worship will include special moments (and special guests) to lift up the journey we have walked together, to express our gratitude for the experiences we have shared, and to acknowledge the end of this pastoral relationship. Then, we'll gather for a Farewell Party, where we will share a light meal, toast Dan, and shower him with gifts and heartfelt gratitude for his presence among us these last two decades.

It takes a village to throw a party!

We are planning a special party for Dan, and we need your help! In addition to your contributions of messages, pictures, and remembrances to the Leavetaking Team's project, we welcome your helping hands to set up, run, and clean up our after-worship celebration. This includes an invitation to provide cupcakes for a scrumptious cupcake dessert buffet! Find all the details on [this signup form](#), and don't hesitate to email fellowship@firstchurchcambridge.org with any questions.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 20

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

Tuesday, May 21

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, Harter Room

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

7:30 p.m. Shelter Oversight Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 22

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

Thursday, May 23

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

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

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

Friday, May 24

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

Sunday, May 26

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

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

Monday, May 27 - Church Building & Office closed for Memorial Day

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