



Eastertide
May 5, 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

May 5, 2024

Preaching Today
Liturgist
Leading Worship

Dan Smith, *Senior Minister*
Leslie Pelton-Cairns, *Deacon*
Carla Arevalo, *Pastoral Associate*
Jim Cairns, *Treasurer*
Lee Prouty, *tech support*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*

Bulletin Cover Image Freddie Funck, *First Church member*

Today's Programs and Events

- 9:30 a.m. Celebrating Past and Present: A 20-Year Look-Back, Harter 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
- 12:15 p.m. Young Adults: Mount Auburn Cemetery Walk, meet in MJH
- 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

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

Voluntary

Edward Elgar

*HYMN 17

Sing Praises to God!

*GREETING

Leslie Pelton-Cairns

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 truth, who abides with us now!

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Cantate Domino

Gretchaninoff

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: 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.

**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.*

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN

Sing to the Lord

Kiran Young Wimberly

Refrain:

**Sing to the Lord, to the Lord a new song,
sing to the Lord, sing all the earth!**

Make a joyful noise to God!
Earth and heaven break into song,
singing praise to God on high
with voice and whistle and fiddle's sound!

Let the sea and all that fills it,
people that on earth do dwell,
hills and valleys sing together
in the presence of God on high!

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

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Psalm 96

SERMON

Dan Smith

*HYMN 31

O Sing to the Lord

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carla Arevalo

MINISTRY MOMENT

Jim Cairns

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

Ave Verum Corpus

Edward Elgar

*DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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!

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

Kate Layzer

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

Emma Thomas

L: Friends, now we remember Jesus and his generosity to us.
Silence.

L: We remember how he fed the five thousand people
with only a loaf of bread and a few fish.

C: We remember how he never left anyone hungry.

L: We remember how Jesus welcomed the children.

C: We remember how he didn't turn them or anyone away.

L: We remember that the women came,
early in the morning, on the third day.

C: They did not find him among the dead.

L: We remember that the disciples met him on the road.

C: They knew him when he broke the bread.

L: He gave thanks, and shared it with them—
his body, surrendered for all.

**C: He gave thanks, and passed a cup to them—
his life poured out for all.
Do this, he said, 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. At the three stations in the front of the Sanctuary, we invite you to take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the cup. 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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

L: Let us give thanks!

**All: Thank you, God, 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 gifts 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 427**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

***BENEDICTION**

VOLUNTARY

Voluntary

Edward Elgar

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.

Sing Praises to God!

1. Sing prais - es to God! Sing praise in the height;
 2. Sing prais - es to God! Sing praise up - on earth,
 3. Sing prais - es to God, all things that give sound;
 4. Sing prais - es to God! Thanks - giv - ing and song

re - joice in God's word, blest an - gels of light;
 in tune - ful ac - cord, you saints of new birth;
 each ju - bi - lant chord re - e - cho a - round;
 be ev - er out - poured, all a - ges a - long:

high heav - ens, re - call - ing by whom you were made,
 praise God, who has brought you rich grace from a - bove,
 loud or - gans, your glo - ry tell out in deep tone,
 for love in cre - a - tion, for hope spread a - broad,

come, of - fer your wor - ship in bright - ness ar - rayed.
 and show - ered your life with a - bun - dance of love.
 and trum - pets, the sto - ry of what God has done.
 for grace of sal - va - tion, sing prais - es to God.

WORDS: Henry Williams Baker, 1875, alt.
 MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1887

LAUDATE DOMINUM
 10 10.11 11

O Sing to the Lord
(Cantad al Señor)

31

Unison (optional S.A.)

1. O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
 2. By great ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
 3. So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
 (1.) *Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,*

O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
 By great ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,

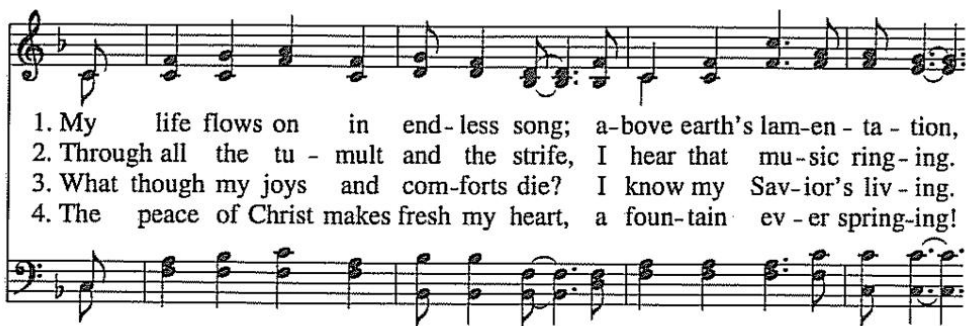
O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song.
 By great ho - ly power our God has done won - ders.
 So dance for our God and blow all the trum - pets.
Can - tad al Se - ñor un cán - ti - co nue - vo,

O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
 O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
 And sing to our God, and sing to our God.
Can - tad al Se - ñor, can - tad al Se - ñor!

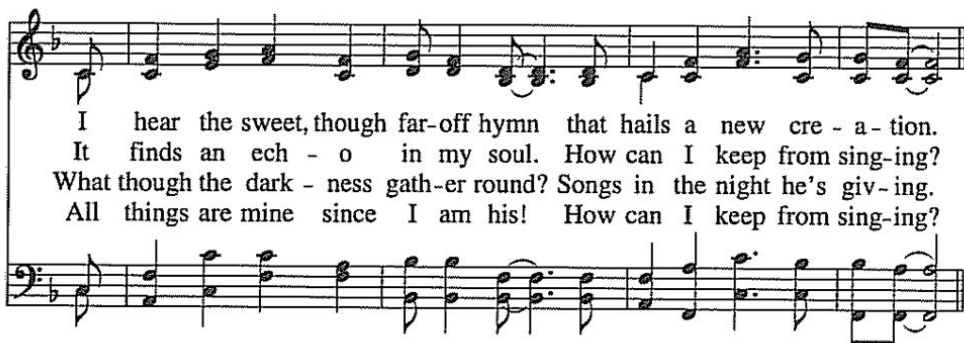
WORDS: Brazilian folk song; English and Spanish trs. Gerhard Cartford, (b. 1923)
 MUSIC: Brazilian folk song; harm. FCC, 1997

CANTAD AL SEÑOR
 11 11.11 10

My Life Flows On in Endless Song 427

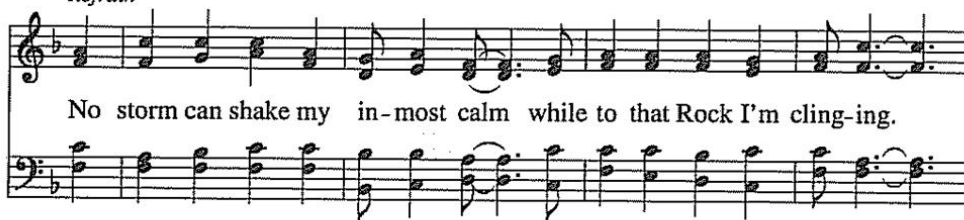


1. My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
 3. What though my joys and com-forts die? I know my Sav-ior's liv-ing.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

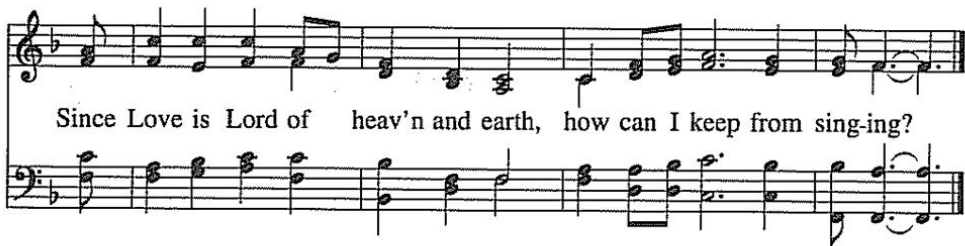


I hear the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he's giv-ing.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

WORDS and MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1869, alt.

Baptist minister and educator Lowry was editor of Sunday School

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

87.87 w. refrain

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Sarah Fujiwara as she mourns the loss of her dear cousin Jean Rimmel Little, who died on Wednesday morning.
- We pray with grateful hearts for the arrival of Heather Stanford's granddaughter Maeve Patricia Olken, born last Saturday.
- We pray for Marieke Van Damme, who is recovering at home from surgery after breaking her foot in two places last Sunday.
- We pray for Tim Brenner and his family as they grieve the loss of Tim's father Peter, who died peacefully surrounded by family after a long struggle with Alzheimers.
- We pray for Mike Wendelin and his family as they grieve the unexpected death of Mike's brother Phil.
- We pray for George Williams, who is recovering in the hospital following a fall and ongoing complications from surgery in December.
- We pray for Bill Hsaio, who is recovering from a broken shoulder after a fall.
- 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 recently-opened MA Safety Net Family Shelter in East Cambridge and with whom we are now working at our First Church Welcome Center.
- In the midst of increasing solidarity protests at colleges and universities, here and across the nation, we pray for the 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. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- 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.
- 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.

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 34,000 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

Celebrating Past and Present: A 20-Year Look-Back

Today, 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.



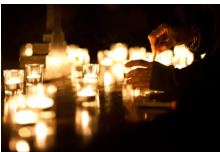
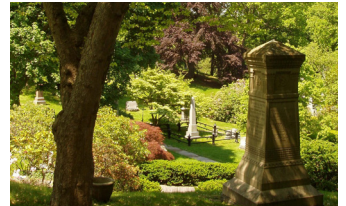
Confirmation Class for 8/9th Graders, The Well

Our year-long Confirmation journey for 8th and 9th graders continues today with a session entitled "Christian Values: Discipleship & Vocation, Witness & Service."

Young Adults: Mount Auburn Cemetery Walk

Today, 12:15 - 3:00 p.m., meet in MJH

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for an afternoon stroll through the beautiful flowers and ponds of Mount Auburn Cemetery! Meet us at coffee hour, and we'll walk over together, stopping to pick up lunch along the way. 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 by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.



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.](#)

The Way Knows The Way

We were blessed to be accompanied through Holy Week by the song *The Way Knows the Way*, which comes from independent artist and songkeeper Lyndsey Scott. If you'd like to continue to follow her work, you can find more information here: <https://www.lyndseyscott.earth/>



EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH



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.

Let's first celebrate the wonderful commitment and generosity of this congregation! We have already paid over \$277,000, shortened the repayment period by six years, and saved \$75,000 in interest! In addition, we have current pledges for another \$50,000 to be paid in 2024 and 2025.

So, where does this leave us? We need an additional \$135,000 to be pledged and paid over the next year to fully retire the loan. If you have not yet made a pledge, we ask that you prayerfully consider what might be possible. If you have made a pledge, please consider whether it might be possible to increase your pledge and/or accelerate your payments.

As we enter this time of transition at First Church, it would be a wonderful gift to have this debt retired before we welcome a new senior minister. Together, it is possible, trusting in the grace and generosity of God in our midst.

Refugee Ministry Welcome Center

The first two openings of our new Welcome Center were successful, and we look forward to hosting guests again on Tuesday, May 7. From 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we will 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

EASTERTIDE AT FIRST CHURCH

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) know by TODAY, if you would like to participate.***



Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Monday, May 13, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., Bow Market, Somerville

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship and happy hour drinks at Bow Market in Somerville! 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 by emailing: youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.

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 for full details on donating.

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

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

LOOKING AHEAD TO PENTECOST

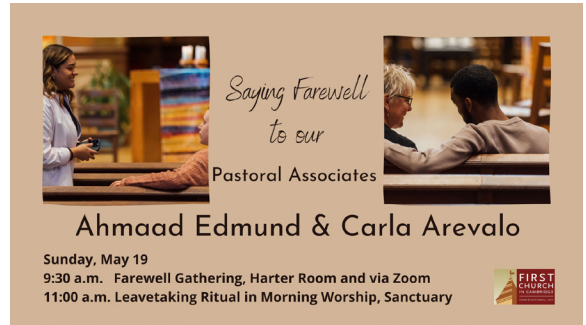
Saying Farewell to Pastoral Associates

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.



Pentecost Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday, May 19, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

Join us for hybrid worship on Pentecost Sunday—a day where we celebrate the gifts of the Holy Spirit among us through movement and song, prayer and reflection. Pentecost will be a special celebration this year with baptisms and the Rite of Confirmation. Come honor the spiritual journeys of our nine Confirmands and hear selections from their statements of faith! We will welcome adults as well, who have discerned

they, too, are ready to join First Church and make us their spiritual home. The service will also include a Spirit-filled testimony from our Community Minister in Latin America, and a bitter-sweet Leavetaking Blessing for Ahmaad and Carla! Come wearing something red, if you'd like, and celebrate the Spirit's presence amidst all of our comings and goings!

Final Night Song of the 2023-24 Season

Night Song will end its program year on Pentecost, May 19. You are invited to come in person or online to hear all three ensembles of Night Song sing together. Night Song will resume on September 8. Night Song is a compline service, an ancient monastic liturgy which has gained in popularity in the US over the past 50 years. The general themes are spiritual peace, deep silence, reflection over the day, rest, sleep, the comfort of darkness, trust, and protection. 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!

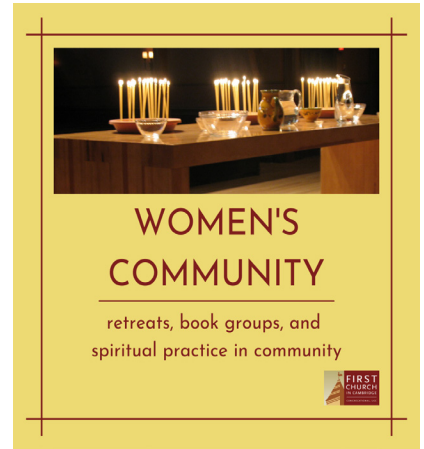


LOOKING AHEAD TO THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

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.



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.

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. For more information, please visit:

www.specialolympicsma.org



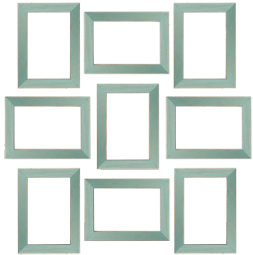
TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH

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



Requests from the Leavetaking/Farewell Team

The Leavetaking/Farewell Team is requesting items for two different projects to honor and celebrate Dan's ministry for and with us.

Scrapbook: Any physical items (photos, cards, artwork, etc.) can be left in the plastic bin in the church office.

Please add a note with your contributions so the team knows who/when/where they are from. Any electronic

submissions (photos, emails, etc.), can be sent to Beth Spaulding. Please submit your items by May 15!

Photos for a slideshow to run during the party on June 9: please email any photos to Beth Spaulding by May 15.

Update from the Interim Search Team

The Interim Search Team is now in the process of completing the first round of interviews with potential candidates for the full time position of Interim Minister. In the coming week we will be deciding which candidates we will be inviting back for a second interview. The Team feels grateful that this work has been interesting and enriching. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.



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



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



“Amid the current wave of campus activism and ongoing demonstrations, we insist upon respect for the constitutional right of free speech, encourage opportunities for the free exchange of ideas and open debate, support non-violent means to express opposition to policies and practices, abhor instances of real hate speech and violence, and counsel restraint by authorities.”

**-Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson
General Minister and President / CEO**

**-Rev. Shari Prestemon
Acting Associate General Minister**



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

9:00 a.m. First Church Welcome Center opens, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

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

Wednesday, May 8

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

3:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, May 9

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

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

Friday, May 10

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

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

Sunday, May 12

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

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

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
11 Garden St. • Cambridge, MA 02138

617-547-2724 • info@firstchurchcambridge.org • www.firstchurchcambridge.org

 [/firstchurchcambridge](#)  [/FirstChurchInCambridge](#)  [/c/FirstChurchInCambridge](#)