

Children's Sunday June 2, 2024

FIRST CHURCH

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

June 2, 2024

Liturgists	Adeline McNamara and Lily Yockel
Preaching	Lindalee Baker, Kiran Ballumel, Lorraine Erickson, Georgia Lee,
-	Ben Jones, John Whaley, Bible 101 class
Leading Worship	Carla Arevalo, Pastoral Associate
c .	Sarah Higginbotham, Creative Worship & Arts Director
	Lee Prouty, tech support
	Dan Smith, Senior Minister
	Peter Sykes, Music Director
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, First Church member

Today's Programs and Events

Bible 101 Class Play Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
Refreshments in Margaret Jewett Hall
"Wade in the Water" Advisory Team Gathering, Harter Room

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: <u>www.firstchurchcambridge.org/give</u>

Contact a Pastor or Staff Member

Find <u>contact information</u> 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 <u>First Church Communications Request</u> form.

> Have an edit or update for our website? Complete the <u>FCC Website Changes</u> 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	Moderato	Niels Gade		
*HYMN 57	I Sing the Mighty Power of God			
*GREETING L: L: C: C: L: L: All:	Adeline McNamara and Lily Yockel Siblings in the Spirit, let us gather to sing out our praise! Praise to the One who made us with love and care! Praise to the One who blessed our grandparents and their grandparents! Praise to the One who reveals a path of grace and blessing for our children and their descendants! God is good! Grown-ups and children, sing out your praise! Alleluia! Amen!			
WORDS OF WELCOME				
ANTHEM	JLM	Bradley Phillips		
CONFESSING				
INVITATION TO CONFESSION				
SILENCE				

SUNG PRAYER

Sanctuary

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you!

(Sung twice through)

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

*HYMN 426

I've Got Peace Like a River

*You are invited to stand. Hymns proceeded 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.

OPENING THE WORD

-2-

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

1 Samuel 3:1-10

A GOSPEL PLAY

*HYMN C-27

Bible 101 Class

Now in Love We Come Together

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan Smith

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

High School James Blanc, Allison Korn, Christina Korn, Miriam Poole *College* Alice Dyer, Claudia Dyer, Mackenzie Joy, Emma Weller, Kate Weller *Graduate School* Carla Arevalo, M.Div; Hanna Bliska, M.E.M.; Ahmaad Edmund, M.Div.; Becca Robinson, M.B.A.; Emma Thomas, M.Div.; Peter Wilson-Braun, D.O.; and Nijimbere Lahayiloyi, M.A.; Matteo Thompson, M.T.S.; and Serena Yu, M.S.; *(Shelter work study students)*

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Francesca Rae Culpepper Alexander Kees Hanna Hazel Massa Lee

CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER APPRECIATION

Godly Play Mark Destler, Will Erickson, Lisa McCarty, and Lindsay McNamara *Middlers* Linda Ziebell and Lauren Yockel *Bible 101* Nate Jones and Jan Jeffers Lo *Confirmation* Carla Arevalo and Phil Jones

- -

Sarah Higginbotham

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 <u>all-in-one link</u> for gifts from your bank account or by credit/debit card:



OFFERTORY

Know that God Loves You

Carson Cooman

***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.

SHARING THE FEAST

*INVITATION

Carla Arevalo

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 justice, compassion, and love are invited to partake of this feast. For those worshiping online, please take and eat. For those in the Sanctuary, please approach one of the three stations at the front of the Sanctuary, where you are invited to take a piece of bread from the plate and dip it into the cup. A fourth station in the back provides individual servings of bread and juice.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 329

Now in the Days of Youth

*BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY

Allegretto

Niels Gade

First Church Land Acknowledgment

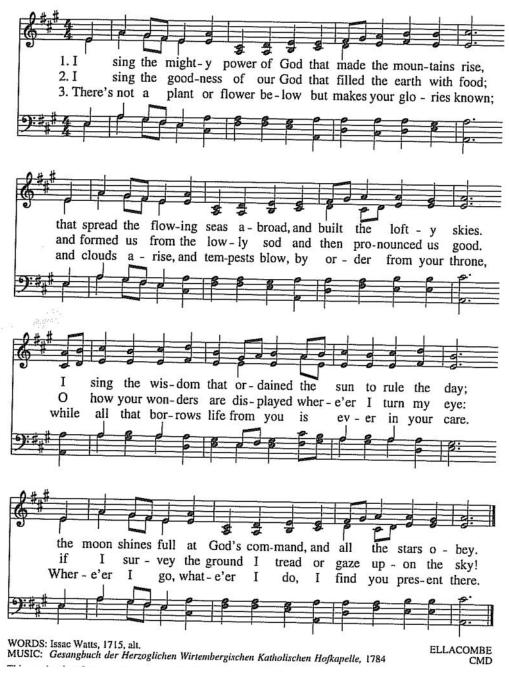


We, gathered here, acknowledge that we are meeting on land which has been the traditional ancestral homeland of the Massachusett people. We acknowledge that this land is unceded and remains sacred to the Massachusett, and to their close neighbors and relatives, the Nipmuc and Wampanoag peoples.

You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment <u>here</u> or by scanning the QR code.

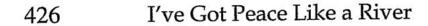
OPENING HYMN





-Hymn Insert 1-

PEACE HYMN

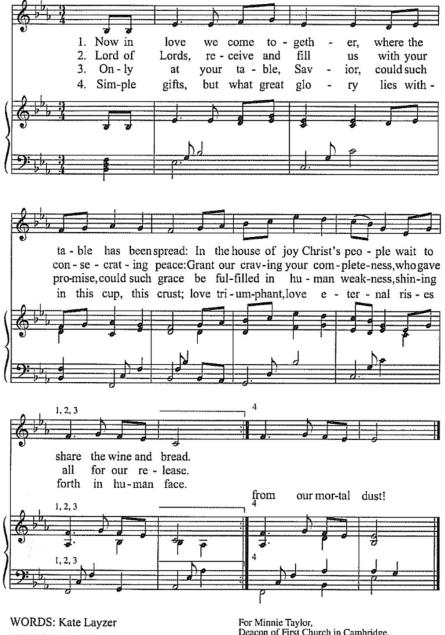




-Hymn Insert 2-

SERMON HYMN

Now in Love We Come Together C-27

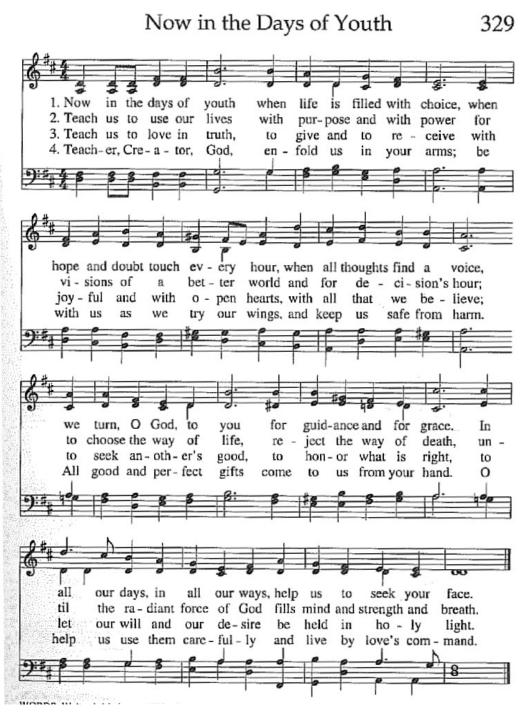


MUSIC: Peter Sykes

Deacon of First Church in Cambridge, in gratitude for many years of sacristy service.

-Hymn Insert 3-

CLOSING HYMN



⁻Hymn Insert 4-

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We give thanks and celebrate with First Church teen Sayvon Stewart, who recently received a scholarship to participate this summer in the U.S. Department of State's National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program in Latvia.
- We pray for Sally O'Brien as she recovers from brain surgery to address essential tremors.
- We pray for Linda and Ken Ziebell, as Ken is now receiving palliative care at Carlton-Willard in Bedford.
- We pray for George Williams, who is moving to a long-term care facility in Lowell that specializes in the treatment of traumatic brain injury.
- We pray for Devin Hansen's friend Joyce Ice, who suffered a stroke recently.
- 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; and Abby Shuman's uncle Barry.
- We pray for the many families seeking emergency shelter in cities and towns across our state, including migrant families living at the MA Safety Net Family Shelter in East Cambridge.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from recent natural and climate-related disasters, especially those who experienced severe storms and tornadoes over the Memorial Day weekend. 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, in Sudan, and in Haiti.
- 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 <u>First Church List</u> to see and offer up more community prayer requests.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, and in light of recent tragic news from Rafah, our hearts cry out in prayer. With the death of 1,400 Israelis and over 36,000 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



Today Is Children's Sunday

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 present "A Gospel Play" as the

culmination of their two-year Bible 101 class. We also recognize our 4th graders with their own Bibles as they "graduate" from Godly Play, and we 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.



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.

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

GBIO Core Team Potluck Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., Harter Room

It's been an amazing year of Housing Justice work for the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, and First Church has played a huge role in advancing key housing policies in the MA State House. Join our Core Team for a light potluck to celebrate our work and to get to know each other a little better. Bring a side dish or dessert; we'll bring pizza! Please



let Will Erickson know if you have any dietary restrictions. All are welcome, especially if you've shown up to a GBIO action in the past! RSVP (and send any dietary restrictions) to Will Erickson: wericks2002@gmail.com



Young Adults: Faith on Tap Monday, June 10, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Felipe's Taquería, Harvard Square

Come join other young adults (20s and 30s) from First Church for casual fellowship and happy hour drinks at Felipe's Taquería in Harvard Square! 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.

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 <u>Immigrant Family</u> <u>Services Institute (IFSI)</u>, its contracted case management agency, is renting space at First Church 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! They would love volunteers who'd like to work directly with guests on the following: practicing English, building job skills, preparing resumes, and helping with preschool education.

Volunteers are needed each Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., through June 20. Reach out to Martha Cook at: marthamuellercook@gmail.com

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!

THE SEASON OF PENTECOST

First Church Reparations Fund: An Update

As part of our racial justice journey at First Church, the Spirit called us to create the Reparations Fund in 2021 to engage in a process of wealth redistribution and the spiritual practice of repair and relinquishment (vs. charitable giving). The First Church Reparations Fund encourages both one-time and periodic donations from individuals; the Missions & Social Justice Committee has also made donations from their budget.

As of January, 2024, First Church has donated \$103,000 to the non-profit that acts as the fiscal agent for a group we call "The Collective," people of African descent engaged in



activism and anti-racist work convened by Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou. They make decisions as to how the money is spent, and during the past 3 years have supported small business ventures, college education funds, aid to people to catch up on rent, and immigration needs. In one case, a member of the Collective was in Haiti when the earthquake struck. With money from the Collective, they were able to get aid into the mountains to villages that had not received any aid.

At its April 22 meeting, First Church's Executive Council voted to approve a new and broader definition of the church's Reparation Fund.

Moving forward, the Reparations Fund will be distributed in three equal portions across three different domains:

- 1/3 to "The Collective" (as described in Executive Council's original measure),
- 1/3 to the Lloyd family's Slave Legacy History Coalition [the Lloyds are direct descendants of enslaved people in First Church's records], and
- 1/3 to further reparative efforts, including ongoing outreach to Indigenous communities, to be determined by a small subcommittee of majority POC First Church members.

We will continue to review this structure (annually) as our learning continues and while honoring existing commitments and relationships.

Stay tuned in the coming weeks for how you can contribute to the Reparations Fund.

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 <u>this followup letter</u> 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 <u>my Calendly</u> <u>site</u> to pick a time and place, via Zoom or in person! - Dan Smith

TRANSITION AT FIRST CHURCH



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 <u>this signup form</u>, and don't hesitate to email fellowship@firstchurchcambridge.org with any questions.





Did You Miss Our 20-Year Look-Back Sessions?

On April 28 and May 5, Dan Smith and other First Church leaders led two 9:30 formation sessions offering a look back at First Church's recent history and ministry. You can find video recordings of the sessions <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>. You can read Dan's notes <u>here</u>.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS



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

CMM presents

the Dr. Alice Kidder Memorial Lecture: Rev. Dr. Matthew Ichihashi Potts on Forgiveness, Grief, and Re-Creation Sunday, June 9, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Eliot Church of Newton UCC 474 Centre St. Newton, MA 02458



Faiths Uniting in Social Action Since 1966

<u>Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries</u> is presenting the Dr. Alice Kidder Memorial Lecture, named in memory of our dear Alice, a beloved First Church member and leader at CMM. <u>Rev. Dr.</u> <u>Matthew Ichihashi Potts</u>, Pusey Minister at the Memorial Church at Harvard University, will speak on forgiveness, grief, and re-creation. Is there a place and role for any forgiveness in our current global conflicts? Does forgiveness have a public place as well as a personal one? How do we encounter and coexist with one another? Can forgiveness stop a war, or broker a peace? Is, or should, forgiveness be unconditional? We must have the energy to explore together! <u>Register today.</u>



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: <u>www.specialolympicsma.org</u>

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS



Service of Ordination for Jaz Buchanan Sunday, June 30 at 3:00 p.m. United Parish in Brookline 210 Harvard St., Brookline, MA

We are thrilled that First Church's former Pastoral Associate Jaz Buchanan has been called by United Church in Walpole as their Associate Pastor of Faith Formation!

All are warmly invited to Jaz's Ordination Service at her home church in Brookline. Learn more and RSVP <u>here</u>.





Monday, June 3

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

Tuesday, June 4

- 10:30 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, The Landing and via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Staff Policy Committee, via Zoom

Wednesday, June 5

9:30 a.m.9:30 a.m.7:00 p.m.7:00 p.m.GBIO Core Team Potluck, Harter Room

Thursday, June 6

- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bible Study, via Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Sunday, June 9

- 10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- 11:00 a.m. Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
- 12:15 p.m. Dan's Farewell Party, MJH

See our <u>Events Calendar</u> for Zoom links and details.

Sign up <u>here</u> to receive our weekly e-newsletter.

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

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