



Juneteenth Sunday
June 16, 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
1 6 3 6 – 2 0 2 4

June 16, 2024

Liturgist Preaching Today Leading Worship

Laurie Williams
Emma Thomas, *Ministerial Intern*
Sarah Fujiwara, Carol Anne Grotrian, Egypt Lloyd, Paula Paris,
and Marieke Van Damme, *"Wade in the Water" Advisory Team members*
Jean Dany Joachim, *for Beloved Community*
Sarah Higginbotham, *Creative Worship & Arts Director*
Karen McArthur, *tech support*
Peter Sykes, *Music Director*

Bulletin Cover Image *small quilt gifted to Dan Smith at his farewell, designed by Carol Anne Grotrian and embroidered by members of the First Church community*

Today's Programs and Events

- 10:00 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
- 12:30 p.m. Juneteenth Gathering, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS

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

Adoration

Florence Price

*HYMN

Woke Up This Mornin'

**Woke up this mornin' with my mind,
Stayed on Jesus
Woke up this mornin' with my mind
Stayed on Jesus
Woke up this mornin' with my mind
Stayed on Jesus
Hallelu, hallelu, hallelujah**

Can't hate your neighbor with your mind...

Singin' and prayin' with my mind...

Woke up this mornin' with my mind...

*GREETING

Laurie Williams

- L: Come, beloved of God,
come, all who thirst for hope and healing!
- C: Come, all ancestors and descendants,
all elders and children!**
- L: From generation to generation,
the Spirit sweeps across the oceans of creation
and rests in the rivers of our baptisms.
- C: She troubles the waters of our complicity
and leads us to streams of justice and joy.**
- L: Come, beloved, on this day God has made,
wade in the water, together!
- C: All thanks, glory, and praise be to her holy name! Amen!**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Antiphon

Roger Bourland

**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.*

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

C: **Holy One, in the light of your risen glory we see the harm we have done,
the suffering we have caused, the good we have refused,
and the truth we have denied.**

Heal us, we pray.

**Wash us in your mercy, and feed us with your grace,
so that we may follow in your way and tell the good news of the gospel.**

Amen.

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

*GREETING OF PEACE

***HYMN 344** Send Me, Jesus (Thuma Mina)

Children are invited to remain in worship today, and they are welcome to visit the Children's Book Corner (near the side door) at any time. If young ones need a break, they are welcome to join the Nursery in Sage Hall (our basement playspace) or on the outdoor playground.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING Ezekiel 17:22-24

READING Mark 4:26-34

SERMON Emma Thomas

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG** Wade in the Water *see page 5*

COMMEMORATING AND RECOMMITTING

INTRODUCTION

MINISTRY MOMENT Sarah Fujiwara, Carol Anne Grotrian, and Marieke Van Damme

GREETING Egypt Lloyd

COMMEMORATION Laurie Williams, Paula Paris, Jean Dany Joachim, and Emma Thomas

LITANY OF REPENTANCE AND RECOMMITMENT

L: God of justice and mercy, today we remember our siblings who were brought here by force, living out their lives as servants enslaved to white families of First Church.

C: Forgive us that it has taken us so long to remember. Forgive us for failing to acknowledge these siblings as part of the communion of First Church saints.

L: As a gathered community of Christians, over the centuries, we have been complicit in the sin of slavery and bystanders during the abolitionist movement. We have looked the other way during decades of Jim Crow violence and segregation, and we have been blind to the violence that continues in the form of mass incarceration.

C: Forgive us for all the times we have been, and are, silent in the face of injustice and inhumanity. Forgive us for not finding the courage to speak and act in the name of your Love.

L: Our hearts are heavy, God, and yet as we name the history of enslavement that is intertwined with the foundations of this church, help us lay down our anger, fear, hatred or guilt, or any burdens that are not ours to carry.

C: And help us to take up the work of justice, repentance, and repair that is needed in this and future generations.

L: Help us, Holy One, to live into the joy and collective liberation of your Beloved Community, a realm of justice, mercy, and freedom for all your children. Give us clear vision and make us courageous in the name of Love.

C: May we bring good news to the oppressed; comfort those who mourn; build up the ancient ruins, and repair the devastations of many generations. We pray all this in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Higginbotham

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND WORLD

L: God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray... (*silence, intercessions, and the Lord's Prayer*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray this prayer in words most meaningful to your heart.

**All: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

*Our offering supports the many ministries of our church,
with 10% for missions in the community and beyond.*

*Please use our new [all-in-one link](#) for gifts from your
bank account or by credit/debit card:*



OFFERTORY

This Little Light of Mine

arr. George Mabry

*DOXOLOGY

**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.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 481

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*BENEDICTION

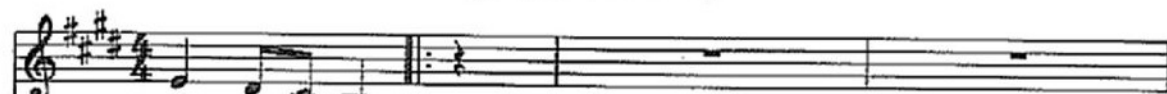
VOLUNTARY

A Pleasant Thought

Florence Price

Send Me, Jesus
(Thuma Mina)

344



Leader: Send me, Lord.



All: 1. Send me, Je - sus, send me, Je - sus, send me,
 2. Lead me, Je - sus, lead me, Je - sus, lead me,
 3. Fill me, Je - sus, fill me, Je - sus, fill me,
Thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma mi - na, thu - ma



2. Lead me, Lord.
 3. Fill me, Lord.
Thu - ma mi - na.



Je - sus, send me, Lord.
 Je - sus, lead me, Lord.
 Je - sus, fill me, Lord.
mi - na so - man ————— dla.



SERMON HYMN

WADE IN THE WATER

So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Acts 2:41

Refrain

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter chil - dren,

Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ter.

1. See that host all dressed in white
 God's going to trouble the water
 They look like the ones who saw the light
 God's going to trouble the water

REFRAIN

2. See that band all dressed in red
 God's going to trouble the water
 Looks like the band that Moses led
 God's going to trouble the water

3. Look over yonder, what do you see?
 God's going to trouble the water
 The Spirit coming for you and me
 God's going to trouble the water

REFRAIN

4. If you don't believe I've been redeemed
 God's going to trouble the water
 Just follow me down to the Jordan's stream
 God's going to trouble the water

5. Oh we've seen trouble, and we've seen woe,
 God's going to trouble the water
 But our God will bring us safely through
 God's going to trouble the water

REFRAIN (twice through)

words alt. 2023, Kate Layzer

CLOSING HYMN

481

Lift Every Voice and Sing


1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 God who has brought us thus far on the way;

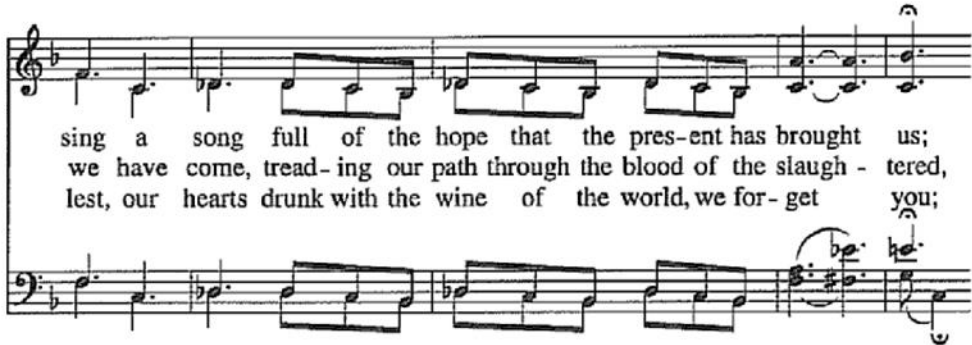
let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 God, who by glo - rious might, led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

CLOSING HYMN



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met you;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get you;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

From 1638-1830 more than one hundred persons of color are recorded in the records of First Church in Cambridge. They were baptized, married, and buried here; some joined as full or partial members. Between 1698 and 1776, when slavery was legal in Massachusetts, at least 36 people — 33 Africans and 3 people identified as Indians — were enslaved by members of First Church and became members of First Church, according to our records. Each accepted the church's covenant and was baptized. Twelve were "admitted to full communion." The rest had limited or no access. In addition, there were over 100 enslaved persons listed in our wider records. Enslaved members and Harvard students sat in the balcony — in separate sections. We do not know if they joined willingly or unwillingly. We honor and remember their names, their humanity, and their God-given dignity today.

-
- 1698 **Philip**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Danforth
 - 1705 **Mingo**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Town
 - 1705 **Charles**, African man enslaved in service to Mr. Town
 - 1705 **Jeffry**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Goff
 - 1705 **Scipio**, an African man enslaved in service to William Brattle, fifth minister of First Church
 - 1727 **Joseph English**, an Indigenous man, enslaved in service to William Russell
 - 1728 **Pompey**, an African man enslaved in service to Nathaniel Appleton, sixth minister of First Church
 - 1729 **Titus**, an indigenous man, enslaved in service to Benjamin Wadsworth, President of Harvard College
 - 1729 **Rose**, an African woman enslaved in service to A. Bordman
 - 1731 **Philicia**, an African woman enslaved in service to Major Brattle
 - 1736 **Hannibal**, an African man enslaved in service to Dr. Wigglesworth
 - 1736 **Margaret**, an African woman enslaved in service to the widow Oliver
 - 1737 **Roger**, an African man enslaved in service to Henry Prentice
 - 1737 **Zillah**, an African woman enslaved in service to Major Brattle
 - 1740 **Lucy**, an indigenous woman enslaved in service to Mr. Bordman
 - 1740 **Venus**, an African woman enslaved in service to Madam Wadsworth
 - 1740 **Cuffy**, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
 - 1740 **Toby**, an African man enslaved in service to Samuel Whitmore
 - 1741 **Jack**, an African man enslaved in service to the widow Tufts

REMEMBERING AND HONORING

- 1741 **Cuffy**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Judah Monis
1741 **Flora**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft
1742 **York**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Trowbridge
1744 **Harry**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Brandon
1745 **Rose**, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
1745 **Cato**, an African man enslaved in service to Madam Brown
1749 **Leos**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Foxcroft
1753 **Jane**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Kent
1755 **James**, an African man enslaved in service to Lieutenant Governor Phipps
1760 **Peter**, an African man enslaved in service to Moses Bordman's widow
1761 **Cato**, an African man enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings
1768 **Jane**, an African woman enslaved in service to Elizabeth Nutting
1768 **Violet**, an African woman enslaved in service to Mr. Faneuil
1769 **Philip**, an African man enslaved in service to Mr. Abraham Watson
1771 **Jerusha**, an African woman enslaved in service to Lieutenant John Dickson
1771 **Anne**, an African woman enslaved in service to Jonathan Hastings, Esq.
1776 **Dilla**, an African woman enslaved in service to Samuel White of Watertown

In addition, we also honor **Tony and Cuba**, and their children **James, Dorrenda, Flora, Darby, Cyrus, and Catherine**, enslaved by the Royall and Vassal families, who had many connections to Cambridge and First Church. Our membership records indicate that Cuba was baptized, "by her own desire," on September 13, 1812, just three days before she died.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- On this Fathers' Day, we give thanks for fathers and father figures in our lives.
- We pray for Kate Layzer and Don Johnson as they mourn the death of Kate's father Bob, who died on Wednesday following a brief illness.
- 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 improving after another brain surgery to replace a shunt, and as he continues treatment for a traumatic brain injury.
- 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: Bob Spaulding, Beth Spaulding's father; 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. 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.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayer for Israel and Palestine

As the war in Gaza and Israel continues, 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.

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.



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

Juneteenth Sunday

Today, as we honor Juneteenth, we are blessed by the presence of our nearly-completed *Wade in the Water* art installation, which honors our enslaved ancestors at First Church; and we share in celebrating our Black community members, remembering our history, and recommitting to our God-given work of collective liberation.



Reparations Fund Matching Grant Opportunity: Summer 2024

This summer is your special opportunity to make a contribution to First Church's Reparations Fund. A First Church member wishing to remain anonymous will match contributions up to a maximum of \$25,000. With the matching campaign, we hope to inspire new people to join in growing the Reparations Fund. ***Beginning with our yearly observance of Juneteenth, and running through Labor Day, your 25 dollars becomes 50 dollars and your 1,000 dollars means that 2,000 dollars go into the Fund.***

Some current funders contribute monthly or yearly, and others have given a one-time offering. We are grateful to past contributors, who have given a total of \$103,000 as of January 2024. You may [give online](#); please be sure to choose "Reparations Fund." Or you may write a check payable to "First Church in Cambridge" with "Reparations Fund" in the memo line.

How will your contribution be used?

In April 2024, First Church's Executive Council voted to approve a new and broader definition of the church's Reparation Fund that reflects the breadth of the relationships and local efforts in which First Church has engaged since the Reparations Fund began:

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.

[Read more about First Church's Reparation Fund and learn how to contribute.](#)

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



JUNETEENTH GATHERING

Honoring those who endured slavery and seized freedom on Brattle Street and beyond

SUNDAY JUNE 16, 2024
12:30-3:00 PM

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS
105 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA
Rain location: Christ Church Cambridge



Speakers
Juneteenth # Pop-Up Poetry, A Denise Plays Hard Event
Music
Refreshments
Hands-on History area
Family Activities

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

Presented in partnership with the Descendants of Tony and Cuba Vassall, History Cambridge, Museum of African American History, Cambridge Historical Commission, Royall House and Slave Quarters, Slave Legacy History Coalition, First Church Cambridge, Christ Church Cambridge.



@LONGNPS



www.nps.gov/longfellow

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



GBIO Housing Justice Campaign Action Team Meeting

Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom

There is a lot to catch up on with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's (GBIO) efforts to bring housing justice to Massachusetts through the state budget. [Watch this video update](#) from First Church's own Phil Jones, along with his GBIO co-leader Phil Hartman. And then come hear a deeper discussion of where things stand right now and what action items are waiting for your efforts! [Register for the meeting here](#).

Right now, the biggest focus remains keeping the real estate transfer fee alive. Our biggest impact on this issue has been in the press and online in recent weeks. Want to help get this over the finish line? Here's what you can do:

- **Continue emailing and calling your senators** and let them know how important a transfer fee is for affordable housing in our state. Many senators are supportive, but we have to keep demonstrating that we are hungry for it!
- **Contribute to the social media push!**
 - Tweet and tag @gbinterfaith in support of the transfer fee on Twitter/X, and we will repost to amplify your voice
 - Submit a short (no more than 1 minute and 30 seconds) video explaining why YOU care about the transfer fee and urge lawmakers to support it. Email your video to justin.martin@gbio.org and Justin will post it to our networks! Our elected officials pay close attention to social media, so let's meet them there! [Click here for example videos](#).

In case you missed it: Check out this Boston Globe article about the trajectory of real estate transfer fee on Beacon Hill, and GBIO's involvement - ["A tax on high-dollar home sales had a clear path on Beacon Hill. Then the real estate industry stepped in."](#)

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

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 [here](#).



Staffing Updates

To summarize an earlier announcement:

- Ministerial Intern **Emma Thomas** will end her intern year with us this Sunday, June 16, and return as Pastoral Associate on September 1.

- Director of Operations **Kirsten Manville** will serve as Acting Head of Staff after Dan's departure and until our Interim Minister begins their time with us in September.

You can find more details about staffing and our season of transition at: firstchurchcambridge.org/transition

Summer Staffing and Building Hours

Because of our limited sexton staffing and the slower building pace during the summer, we have reduced our building hours starting in June. On most Saturdays in June, the building closes at 6:00 p.m., and on most Sundays in June, the building closes 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](#).



SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH

Summer Worship & Preaching

Through the months of July and August, Hybrid Morning Worship begins at 10:00 a.m., with Pick-Up Choir meeting at 9:00 a.m. Church School-aged children are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the entire worship service. The Nursery continues to be staffed by our regular caregivers for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. Night Song, our evening service, will return in September after a summer hiatus. Special thanks to our current staff and to our Community Ministers for preaching this summer:

June 30

Rev. Ingeborg Haug

July 7

Rev. Norm Bendroth

July 14

Rev. Liz Williams

July 21

Rev. Kate Layzer

July 28

Rev. Henry Schoenfield

August 4

Rev. Karen McArthur

August 11

Rev. Kryisia Burnham

August 18

Rev. Rev. Alex Steinert-Evoy

August 25

Rev. Kate Layzer

September 1

Emma Thomas, Pastoral Associate



Pastoral Care Cards This Summer

During the summer months, we invite you to support our Pastoral Care ministry by writing a simple note to First Church members who are on our weekly prayer list. It may be to share congratulations, condolences, or “get well soon” wishes. Look for the “card table” at Coffee Hour each Sunday, where you’ll find the weekly list of pastoral care needs and/or the Sunday bulletin prayer section, blank cards, pens, and a Church

Directory with addresses. We also include stamps and return address labels. Please affix to the completed cards and place them in one of the mailboxes on Garden St. as you leave (corner of Garden and Mason or corner of Garden and Berkeley). If you’d like to write cards from home, use the online bulletin and Church Directory found in the “Quick Links” on the Members & Friends page of our website. Many thanks in advance for sharing in this important ministry of outreach and care.

Would you like to join one of our Pastoral Care Teams to write cards, visit members, or deliver meals September through June? Contact Care Team Coordinator Susie Neubauer to learn more: susieneubauer@gmail.com.

SUMMER AT FIRST CHURCH



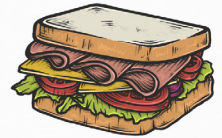
Pastoral Care During Our Transition

As we have now said goodbye to Dan, 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.

Friday Café Summer Lunch Program

Looking for a fun summer project you can do with (or without) kids? Become a part of the Friday Café summer lunch program for neighbors in need by signing up to contribute 10 sandwiches, 10 servings of fruit or fruit salad, or 10 sweet treats on one or more Fridays. This is a great opportunity to talk with kids about food insecurity and give them hands-on ways to respond, like helping shop for groceries, assembling sandwiches, baking cupcakes, and creating food labels. Bring community service forms with you when you drop off if you'd like credit for time invested.



As food prices continue to rise, the Greater Boston Food Bank has released a survey showing that 34% of households in our local community experienced food insecurity last year. You can do your part to combat hunger by becoming a part of the Friday Café's year-round homemade cooking-for-neighbors program.

Visit www.thefriday.cafe to learn more.

INTERIM MINISTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Introducing First Church's Interim Senior Minister

The Interim Search Team is excited to introduce the **Rev. Dr. J. Michael Solberg** as our Interim Senior Minister. His first day at First Church in Cambridge will be Monday, August 26, and he will preach for the first time on Regathering Sunday, September 8.

Mike has 34 years of experience as ordained clergy. He grew up in the Lutheran church (ELCA), was ordained in Presbyterian Church (USA) and has "privilege of call" in the United Church of Christ, having served UCC congregations for the last 22 years. (Many of us at First Church might resonate with his denominational journey!) Mike holds an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School, and a D.Min. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He and his wife Janine have two grown children. Mike and Janine plan to live in the parsonage while he serves First Church.



Currently, Mike is the settled Senior Pastor of The Union Church of Hinsdale, IL, an 800-member UCC congregation in suburban Chicago, where he has served for the last 11 years. In his profile, Mike shares some of his passions. He writes that he is passionate about dogs and pizza (Chicago deep-dish-style pizza, to be specific). He is passionate about preaching – "Preaching is the most important chance a pastor has to inspire, challenge, teach, comfort, and shape Christian identity." And he is passionate about IAF-style community organizing, a model of faith- and broad-based organizing that we at First Church are familiar with in our work with GBIO – "If we are to serve Jesus' vision that all may have life, and have it abundantly, then we have to organize people and money to effect change on the specific issues people care about." This commitment to community organizing is long standing, and he currently serves as President of DuPage United, a social justice coalition working on issues such as gun safety, mental health, and affordable housing in the greater Chicago area. Mike has been a leader in the Illinois Conference's partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola, engaged in a range of mutual ministry efforts, including one where he swam the English Channel to raise funds to build a school.

The Interim Search Team was impressed by Mike's open, collaborative style; his extensive experience in providing administrative leadership in churches with large staffs; and his commitment and passion for worship and preaching. Even as he brings his own deep commitment and experience in social justice, he is eager to lean into and learn with us in our own racial and social justice journey.

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Mike will be a first-time interim, but he has completed training for intentional transitional ministry, and, according to the references we spoke with, he will throw himself fully into the experience – being energized by new challenges and not simply “filling the space” between two settled pastors. We are confident that Mike is the leader we need in this time of transition and preparation for the next chapter of First Church’s story leading us into our Fifth Century.

Mike writes, “I am delighted to be joining First Church in this tender and hopeful transitional time. You show remarkable depth and breadth in your church life, both in faith-building and in faithful action. I look forward to working with you to set the stage for the love-and-justice-infused ministry that surely lies ahead.”

Jim Cairns, Claire Morgan, Stephen Weller, and Linda Ziebell
Interim Search Team



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, June 17

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

Tuesday, June 18

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

Wednesday, June 19 - Church Office & Building Closed for Juneteenth Holiday

Thursday, June 20

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

Friday, June 21

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

Sunday, June 23

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

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

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

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