



Regathering Season
October 20, 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

October 20, 2024

Liturgist	Devin Hansen
Preaching Today	Mike Solberg, <i>Interim Senior Minister</i>
Leading Worship	Emma Mitchell, <i>Pastoral Associate</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i> Peter Sykes, <i>Music Director</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

9:45 a.m.	Newcomers Gathering, Harter Room
10:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Morning Worship, Sanctuary and via livestream
11:20 a.m.	Church School: Godly Play and Bible 101 classes, Library & The Well)
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Hastings Common
12:30 p.m.	Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel
12:30 p.m.	Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, The Well
7:00 p.m.	Faith & Life Group: 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.

GATHERING

VOLUNTARY

Jesu, meine Freude

J. S. Bach

***HYMN 26**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

***GREETING**

Devin Hansen

L: Siblings in the Spirit, whether you are here for an hour or a lifetime,
welcome to this household of grace:

C: here, where our lives are grounded in the hope and healing of God;

L: here, where we grow together in community and belonging;

C: here, where we pray and work together for peace and justice in our world.

L: Sisters, brothers, siblings in the Spirit, come gather in.

**C: We gather here, where God heals and equips us
to join God in healing the world.**

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

Your Hands, O Lord

Carson Cooman

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

**C: Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your path
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength;
and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

**You are invited to stand. Hymns preceded by a "C" are found in the beginning section of the hymnal. This section contains hymns written and composed by current and past members of First Church in Cambridge.*

***GREETING OF PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

***A MUTUAL BLESSING**

Adults: God be with you there.

Children: God be with you here.

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School classes. Godly Play (PreK-4th grade) and Bible 101 (5/6th grade) students can meet their teachers at the side door by the Children's Book Corner. Caregivers can find the children in the Chapel after worship.

***HYMN 398**

God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Psalm 13:1-4

All: How long, O God? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me? (pause)

**How long must I wrestle with my anguish,
and wallow in despair all day long?**

How long will my enemy triumph over me? (pause)

Look at me! Answer me, my God! (pause)

**Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed";
lest my foes rejoice when I fall.**

READING

Psalm 34:4-10

READING

Revelation 22:1-5

REFLECTION

Healing of the Nations

Mike Solberg

A TIME OF HEALING

INVITATION

Emma Mitchell

BLESSING OF OIL & HANDS

HYMNS

441 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

424 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

394 I Have No Bucket, and the Well Is Deep

400 There Is a Balm in Gilead

CONCLUDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**All: Our Healer, 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 OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Jesus, dulcis memoria Tomas Luis da Victoria
*Jesu, name of sweetest thought, name with every blessing fraught -
But beyond all blessings dear, is Thy presence, Jesu, dear.*

*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' name. Amen.**

GOING FORTH

*HYMN 417

All My Hope on God Is Founded

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

Thuma Mina

Hymn 344

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (Send me, Lord.)
Send me Jesus, send me, Jesus,
send me Jesus, send me, Lord! | 3. (Fill me, Lord.) Fill me, Jesus... |
| 2. (Lead me, Lord.) Lead me, Jesus... | 4. (Thuma mina.)
Thuma mina, thuma mina,
thuma mina, somandla. |

VOLUNTARY

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier

J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

26 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the God of cre - a - tion!
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign - eth,
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend thee;
 4. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the God of cre - a - tion!

Sing, my soul, prais-ing the source of thy health and sal - va - tion!
 shel-ters thee un - der-neath wings, yea, so gen - tly sus-tain - eth!
 sure-ly great good-ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath, sing out thy heart's ju - bi - la - tion!

All ye who hear, now to God's tem - ple draw near;
 Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might-y can do,
 Let the A - men sound from God's peo - ple a - gain:

join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 grant - ed in what God or - dain - - eth?
 who with great love doth be - friend thee.
 join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.

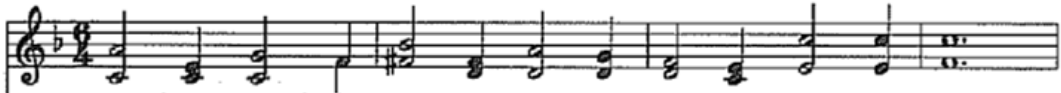
WORDS: Joachim Neander, 1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

MUSIC: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1665; harm. *The Chorale Book for England*, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN

14 14.478

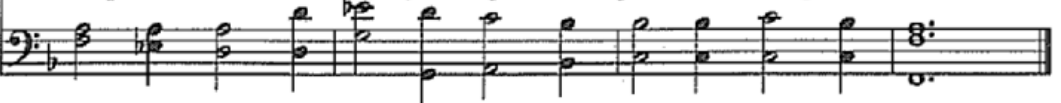
398 God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty



1. God, who touch - es earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new.
2. Like your springs and run - ning wa - ters, make me crys - tal pure.
3. Like your danc - ing waves in sun - light, make me glad and free.
4. Like the arch - ing of the heav - ens, lift my thoughts a - bove.
5. God, who touch - es earth with beau - ty, make my heart a - new.



With your Spir - it re - cre - ate me pure and strong and true.
 Like your rocks of tower - ing gran - deur, make me strong and sure.
 Like the straight - ness of the pine trees, let me up - right be.
 Turn my dreams to no - ble ac - tion, min - is - tries of love.
 Keep me ev - er, by your Spir - it, pure and strong and true.



Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

441

Unison

1. E - ter-nal Spir - it of the liv - ing Christ, I know not how to
 2. Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day; help me to see your
 3. Come with the vi - sion and the strength I need to serve my God, and



ask or what to say; I on - ly know my need, as deep as
 pur- pose and your will, where I have failed, what I have done a -
 all hu- man - i - ty; ful - fill- ment of my life in love out -



life, and on - ly you can teach me how to pray.
 miss; held in for - giv - ing love, let me be still.
 poured — my life in you, O Christ, your love in me.



WORDS: Frank von Christierson, 1974, rev. 1979
 MUSIC: Alfred M. Smith, 1941

SURSUM CORDA
 10 10.10 10

HEALING HYMN

I Have No Bucket, and the Well Is Deep 394

Unison

1. I have no buck - et, and the well is deep. My thirst is
 2. Can love un - bar the strong-rooms of the mind and scour the
 3. Who are you, strange yet friend - ly at my side, and can you
 4. Come break the rock, and bid the riv - ers flow from deep un -

end - less, and my throat is dry. I ask you, stran - ger, si - lent
 tombs and war - rens un - der - ground for toys and treas - ures lost, or
 see and judge, yet un - der - stand my hid - den self, and heal with
 end - ing wells of joy and worth, for tears, for drink - ing, drown - ing

at my side, can words re - fresh my long - ings if you speak?
 nev - er found, for all I can - not name, yet ache to find?
 wound - ed hands? Are you the path, the gate - way and the guide,
 and new birth, and I shall find and give my - self, and know

I have no buck - et, and the well is deep.
 I have no buck - et, and the well is deep.
 the keys, the liv - ing wa - ter, and the light?
 the keys, the liv - ing wa - ter, and the light.

HEALING HYMN

424 We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

1. We walk by faith and not by sight;
 2. We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
 3. Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
 4. That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra-cious words we hear from Christ who spoke as
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; but in con - fess - ing
 and may our faith a - bound to call on you when
 in realms of clear - er light we may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

HEALING HYMN

400

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain §

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul. *Fine*

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
 2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for
 3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if

think my work's in vain. But then the Ho - ly
 Je - sus is your friend, and if you look for
 you can't pray like Paul, just tell the love of

D.S.

Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 knowl-edge he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. There is a
 Je - sus, and say he died for all.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual
 Here is a positive response to the question asked in
 Jeremiah 8:22: 'Is there no balm in Gilead?' Hope
 for the future is sustained in the painful present.

BALM IN GILEAD
 76.76 w. refrain

CLOSING HYMN

417 All My Hope on God Is Founded

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does all my trust re-new.
 2. Day by day the al-might-y giv-er boun-teous gifts on us be-stows;
 3. Still from earth to God e-ter-nal hymns of grate-ful praise be sung,

Safe through change and chance God guides me, on-ly good and on-ly true.
 with de-light our souls are nour-ished, plea-sure leads us where we go.
 high a-bove all prais-es prais-ing for the gift of Christ the Son.

God un-known, One a-lone seeks to claim my heart as home.
 Love does stand at God's hand; joy a-waits each new com-mand.
 Hear Christ's call one and all; those who fol-low shall not fall.

WORDS: Joachim Neander, c. 1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1899, alt.
 MUSIC: Herbert Howells, 1930, 1977

MICHAEL
 87.87.337

Self-taught in music composition, Howells earned a scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London where he later taught. MICHAEL is named for Howells' son who died in childhood.

Music © 1982 Novello & Co., Ltd.,
 admin. Shawnee Press, Inc.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Lindsay Miller, who is recovering at home from a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for Dave Kidder's sister Lucinda, who has entered hospice care as her cancer has spread.
- We pray for Larry Smith as he mourns the loss of his sister Norma Hill, who died on September 6 at the age of 93.
- We pray for Keith Manville, Director of Operations Kirsten Manville's father, as he continues his recovery from a stroke at a rehab facility.
- We pray for all who are living with significant health challenges and their families and caregivers: Ellen Frith, who is living with a serious chronic illness; 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.
- As we pass the one-year anniversary of Hamas's attack on Israel, and as war in the Middle East expands and intensifies, our hearts cry out in prayer for all those suffering in body and soul. We pray for the dead, for their loved ones, and for their broader communities. We pray for changed hearts for all those inflicting violence upon others, and thus upon their own souls, whether compelled by others in authority, or by injustice, or by vengeance. We give thanks for all the peacemakers. We pray that we, like they, may be free of the myth of redemptive violence, and take collective action, however small, to be people of true peace in this world. May we all see your way more clearly, O God.
- We pray for our nation during this election season, amid intense political polarization.
- We continue to pray for all who are recovering from natural and climate-related disasters, especially those in the southeastern region of the US, where Hurricanes Milton and Helene have caused catastrophic damage and loss of life. We pray for our rapidly warming planet and for efforts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.
- We pray for the ongoing safety, security, and wellbeing of Amani, Amini, and Ephrem Matabaro, and for all 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 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 pray for all those impacted by the violence of war and political upheaval throughout the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, in Haiti, and in far too many other places in our world.

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Newcomers Gathering

Today, 9:45 - 10:45 a.m., Harter Room

Are you new to First Church? Whether you've been with us for one Sunday or many more, if you FEEL new to this community and want to build connections and learn more about life at First Church,



this gathering is for you. We'll gather together, share some light refreshments, and get to know each other with some games. We'll also share some time with a few current members of First Church who will share their reflections and be available to answer your questions about their experiences at First Church. Come play, eat, and build connection!



Family Choir Returns!

Rehearsals: TODAY and Sunday, October 27, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m., Chapel; and Sunday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Do you like to sing with others? Have you heard that research shows how singing in a group can boost health and happiness? First Church folks of all ages and experience levels are warmly invited to join the Family Choir for a few rehearsals leading up to a musical offering in our All Saints Worship on November 3. Grab a coffee and cookie after worship today and next Sunday and head to the Chapel to learn a simple South African harmony song with Sarah Higginbotham.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders

Today, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Harter Room

7th and 8th graders from First Church and Old South Church meet for a session of their year-long sexuality education curriculum.



Night Song

Today, 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.

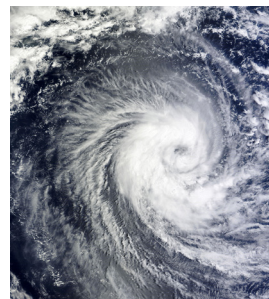
[Learn more about Night Song.](#)

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.



REGATHERING SEASON AT FIRST CHURCH

[The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Relief Efforts](#) invites people to offer monetary contributions toward hurricane relief, and/or to join volunteer efforts with [Crisis Cleanup phone banking](#) – which allows people to remotely assist with connecting crisis need to relief services – and for assembling [hygiene and cleanup buckets](#).



Learn more and respond:

<https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>

First Church Shelter presents
The 2024 Doris Beauvais Luncheon
& Mitch Snyder Awards

Sunday, October 27 | 12:30-2:30 p.m.
Margaret Jewett Hall | 11 Garden Street, Cambridge

First Church Shelter presents
The Annual Doris Beauvais Luncheon
& Mitch Snyder Awards
Sunday, October 27, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Margaret Jewett Hall

The Shelter Oversight Committee invites you to the 2024 Doris Beauvais Luncheon. Join us to recognize Dennis Kaveney's 36 years of service to the Shelter, as well as to celebrate the five recipients of the Mitch Snyder Awards, given to those who do the good and important work of caring for those in need in our community.

The 2024 Mitch Snyder Award Recipients:

- Carl Alves, *Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA), New Bedford*
- Rev. David Lima, *Inter Church Council of Greater New Bedford (ICC)*
- Kris Perry Long, *Riverside Community Care, Foxboro*
- Dianne Kuzia Hills, *My Brother's Table, Lynn*
- Lynn Wencus, *Team Sharing, Wrentham*

Women's Community Book Group

Tuesday, October 29, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m., via Zoom

Come join us, and bring a friend, for our second book of the year, Roxana Robinson's [Leaving: A Novel](#). One reviewer describes this novel the following way: "An engrossing exploration of the vows we make to one another, the tensile relationships between parents and their children, and what we owe to others and ourselves." As always, we look forward to sharing our reflections and reactions together.

**WOMEN'S
COMMUNITY**

retreats, book groups, and
spiritual practice in community

Thursday Drop-In Bible Study Comes to a Close

Having fulfilled its purpose — giving members and friends a place online to gather for Bible study during the COVID crisis — our online Thursday night Drop-In Bible Study has drawn to a close. A good time was had by all! At our peak, our address list included 14 or 15 names, across denominations and interfaith, enriching our discussion beyond measure.

Here are a few thoughts from participants regarding our group:

“For over four years, our group of multiple participants read more than a dozen biblical texts including Torah, historical, poetical, wisdom, prophetic, Gospel and epistle texts. We discussed, digressed, disputed, pondered, and wondered together as our lives intermingled in study and sharing.”

“It was an absolute joy to get to know each person so well as we explored what is important in life. Such talent and wisdom in our little group!”

We’re confident that our experience was only a waystation on the road of integrating the Bible into the life of First Church. We look forward to more opportunities to come!

— *Carter West, Drop-In Bible Study member*

“I loved sharing our spiritual journeys, the silence given to contemplate, and all the openness to unique perspectives and all sorts of questions.”

“This was the best Bible study I’ve ever experienced! The input from an eclectic membership enriched us all, and I learned from each and every member of the group.”

“Our Bible study discussions were rich and illuminating as we shared our understandings — and questions. We read selected books of the Bible through the perspectives of devotion, history, literature, and culture. The texts were perplexing and illuminating, dry and radiant.”

“Thanks to all for letting me join the search for God’s Word in Scripture. Our time to study the Bible remotely was a time for that purpose under Heaven.”

LOOKING AHEAD

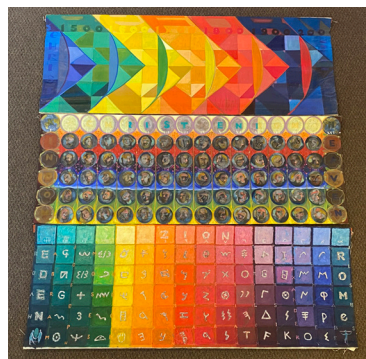


Youth Group Gathering **Friday, November 1, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.** **Home of the Baker Family**

First Church teens from 9th to 12th grade are warmly invited to gather at the Baker family's home for pizza, games, and general hanging out. Let's catch up with each other after our tree-climbing and beach-hanging fun in September and look ahead to more opportunities for connecting through fellowship, learning, and service activities in the coming months.

All Saints Day Art: Seventy Witnesses **Sunday, November 3**

Come see and study three long oil paintings that celebrate the "cloud of witnesses" symbolized in seventy letters, saints, and events. This exhibit is shown annually by artist and First Church member Henry Gates, who strives to bring our faith history to life through color and image.



Seraphim: *Eternal Voices and Sacred Landscapes*

Saturday, November 9, 8:00 p.m., Holy Name Parish, W. Roxbury

Sunday, November 10, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary and via livestream

[Seraphim](#), a choral group with close ties to First Church, has a special offer for first-time concert-goers. Purchase a \$25 ticket to their November or November 10 concert, and receive one of the following:

- a \$25 gift certificate at Sugar Baking Company in West Roxbury
- a \$25 gift certificate at Alden & Harlow in Harvard Square
- a \$25 gift made in your name to support The Friday Café!



seraphim

Seraphim performs choral works which illuminate critical topics, including homelessness, climate change, racial justice, and other social issues, and open a window on the Divine. Their concerts are designed to offer new perspectives, challenging audiences and sparking inspiration to make our community and our world better. [Visit their website](#) for more information.

LOOKING AHEAD



First Church's "Wade in the Water" quilt at Rising Star Quilt Show
Saturday, November 16, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 17, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Arlington Town Hall, 730 Mass.Ave., Arlington, MA

Catch a rare glimpse of over 100 unique hand-crafted quilts that will be on display at Arlington's Town Hall, including First Church's "Wade in the Water" project, to which many First Church folks contributed their embroidery, stamping, and sewing skills. The quilt show's challenge theme this year is "Freedom." There will be handmade items available for purchase in the boutique and a café selling beverages and baked goods.



THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, October 21

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

Tuesday, October 22

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Tending Our Spirits in a Time of Transition, via Zoom

Wednesday, October 23

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

7:00 p.m. Missions & Social Justice Committee, via Zoom

Thursday, October 24

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Margaret Jewett Hall (MJH)

Friday, October 25

12:00 p.m. Friday Café, MJH

Sunday, October 27

10:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

11:20 a.m. Church School: Creative Arts Workshop

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

12:30 p.m. Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards, MJH

12:30 p.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Chapel

12:30 p.m. Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 7/8th graders, Harter Room

7:00 p.m. Faith & Life Group: Exploring Our Faith as Adults

through the Confirmation Curriculum, via Zoom

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



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

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

Have a church program or event to promote?

Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

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

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

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