



Regathering Season
October 27, 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 27, 2024

Liturgist	Ingeborg Haug
Preaching Today	Karen McArthur, <i>Minister of Stewardship & Finance</i>
Leading Worship	Justin Brueggeman, <i>guest musician</i> Kate Layzer, <i>Minister of Street Outreach</i> Lee Prouty, <i>Facilities Manager</i>
Bulletin Cover Image	Freddie Funck, <i>First Church member</i>

Today's Programs and Events

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, Harter Room
12:15 p.m.	Refreshments in Hastings Common
12:30 p.m.	Doris Beauvais Luncheon & Mitch Snyder Awards, Margaret Jewett Hall
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

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

There Is a Happy Land

George Shearing

*HYMN 469

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*GREETING

Ingeborg Haug

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: and let God's truth abide this day and always!

WORDS OF WELCOME

ANTHEM

How Can I Keep From Singing

Traditional

CONFESSING

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

SILENCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

John Knox, 1556

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

**C: Be merciful, O Lord, to our offences;
and seeing our debt is great,
which thou hast forgiven us in Jesus Christ,
make us to love thee and our neighbors so much the more.
Be thou our Father, our Captain and Defender in all temptations;
hold thou us by thy merciful hand;
that we may be delivered from all inconveniences,
and end our lives in the sanctifying and honoring of thine holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Savior. 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!**

*HYMN 247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Children up through 6th grade are now invited to Church School for a Creative Arts Workshop in the Harter Room. Caregivers can find the children in Hastings Common after worship.

OPENING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

READING

Mark 10:17-31

SERMON

Karen McArthur

*HYMN 240

I Love Your Church, O God

SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kate Layzer

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

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

J. S. Bach

*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 27

Now Thank We All Our God

*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

Prelude in C

J.S. Bach

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

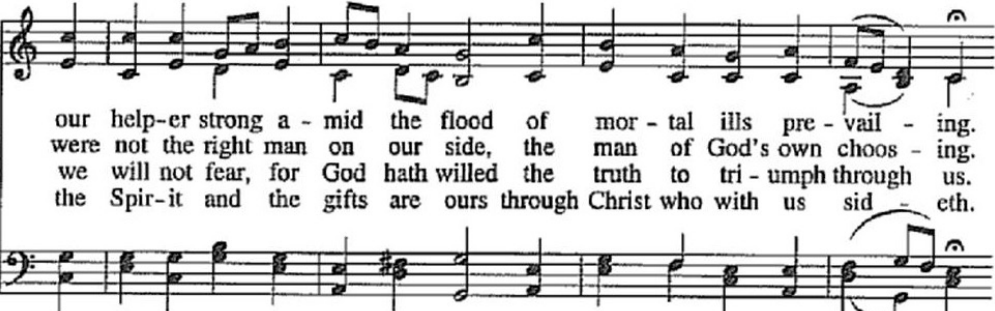
You can find a longer version of this acknowledgment [here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

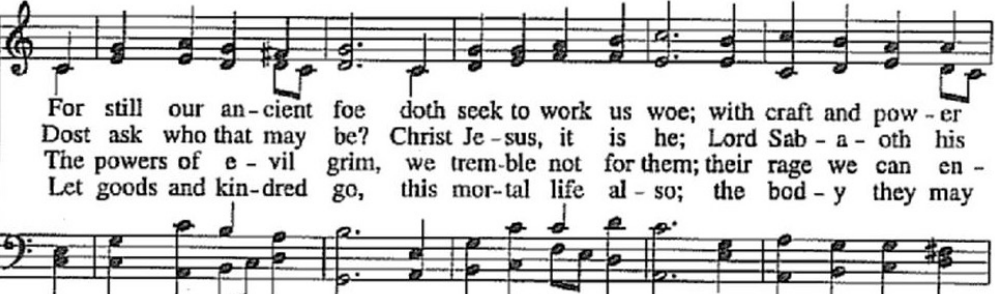
469



1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



our help - er strong a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
 were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choos - ing.
 we will not fear, for God hath willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through Christ who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe; with craft and pow - er
 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not an e - qual.
 name. From age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, God's king - dom is for - ev - er.

247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word



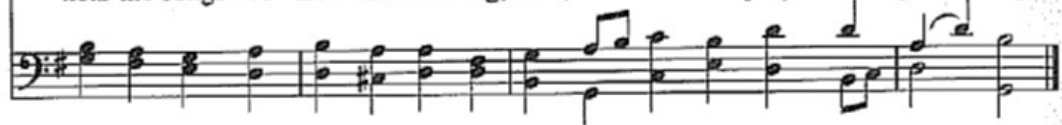
1. Bless-ed Je - sus, at your word we are gath - ered all to hear you;
 2. Glo - rious Lord, your - self im - part! Light of light, from God pro - ceed - ing,



let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and praise you;
 o - pen now our minds and hearts, help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing;



by your teach - ings sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
 hear the songs we now are rais - ing; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - ing.



I Love Your Church, O God

240

1. I love your church, O God, on earth your
 2. I love your church, O God, whose walls be -
 3. In love my tears shall fall, in love my
 4. Be - yond my high - est joys, I prize your

blest a - bode, one faith - ful bo - dy
 fore you stand, dear as the ap - ple
 prayers as - cend, to serve your church, my
 church - 's ways, its sweet com - mun - ion,

saved by Christ with his own pre - cious blood.
 of your eye, and grav - en on your hand.
 toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.
 sol - emn vows, its hymns of love and praise.

Now Thank We All Our God

27

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
 2. O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God al - might - y now be giv - en;

who won-drous things hath done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
 with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
 to God, the three - in - one, who reigns in high - est heav - en,

who, from our moth - ers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
 and keep us in all grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
 the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt.
 MUSIC: Melody, Johann Crüger, 1647

NUN DANKET
 67.67.66.66

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

- We pray for Kathy Williams's son Brett Williams and his husband George Goodrich, who have been displaced from their longtime home in Vermont by a fire.
- 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 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 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

**First Church Shelter presents
The Annual Doris Beauvais Luncheon
& Mitch Snyder Awards
Today, 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*



**Family Choir Rehearsal
Today, 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 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.

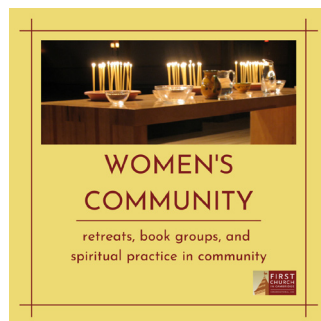
[Learn more about Night Song.](#)

UPCOMING AT FIRST CHURCH

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.



Youth Group Gathering

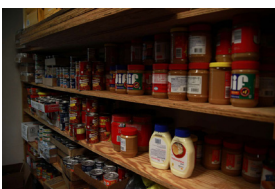
Friday, November 1, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Home of the Baker Family

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.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 2, 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., Harter Room

The Men's Breakfast is a forum for any and all who identify as men at First Church. We meet monthly to share breakfast and to share experiences. We prepare breakfast and participate with a rotating monthly leader. All are welcome! If you would like to be added to the Men's Breakfast email list to receive reminders of these gatherings, please contact Peter Byerly: p.byerly@comcast.net



Food Pantry Donations on Communion Sundays

First Church continues to provide contributions to the Many Helping Hands Food Pantry. The volunteer-run, donation-driven pantry offers a grocery shopping experience on the second Saturday of each month. You are invited to donate healthy snacks, hygiene products, spices, and (when possible) items bought in bulk/case, as this supports customers having

a similar shopping experience. ***First Church donations can be left in the large baskets in the Narthex on the first Sunday of each month, which is next Sunday, November 3.***

UPCOMING AT FIRST CHURCH



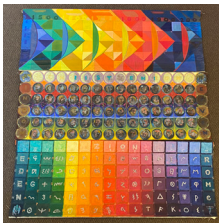
All Saints Sunday Is November 3

On All Saints Sunday, we celebrate the lives, devotion, and example of members and friends of our congregation who died in the last year, as well as their immediate family members. With help from our larger-than-life puppet saints that have been a First Church tradition for many years, we also commemorate all God's holy ones, known and unknown to us, who have now entered God's joy. Our tradition teaches that a saint is anyone who is called and gifted by the Spirit to carry out a ministry of grace and reconciliation in the world, and who is responding generously. Our celebration will end with "Communion-in-the-round" and a lifting up of the names of all who are present in this sacred, liminal space across time and generations.



All Saints Sunday List of Names

Each year on All Saints Sunday, we list names in our bulletin of loved ones in our community who have died since the last All Saints Sunday (November 5, 2023). The list is compiled from our weekly bulletin prayers for those who have been grieving loss over the course of the year. If you have lost a loved one and are concerned that they may not be included on the list, please reach out to Bruce in the office at: bruce@firstchurchcambridge.org by this Tuesday.



All Saints Day Art: *Seventy Witnesses*

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Young Adults: Faith on Tap

Thursday, November 7, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cambridge Brewing Company, Kendall Square

First Church has an active group of 20- and 30-somethings who get together a couple times each month to socialize, usually over drinks! It's a "come as you are, when you can" kind of group, and all in that age range are welcome. If you want to hear about Young Adults events, or learn more about the group, talk to Phil Servello-Jones or Casey Marsh, or email youngadults@firstchurchcambridge.org.



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 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.

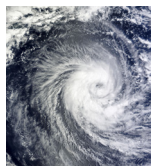
First Church's "Wade in the Water" quilt at Rising Star Quilt Show

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.



[The UCC Appeal for Hurricane Relief Efforts](#) invites people to offer monetary contributions toward hurricane relief.

Learn more and respond: <https://support.ucc.org/hurricane-helene-relief>

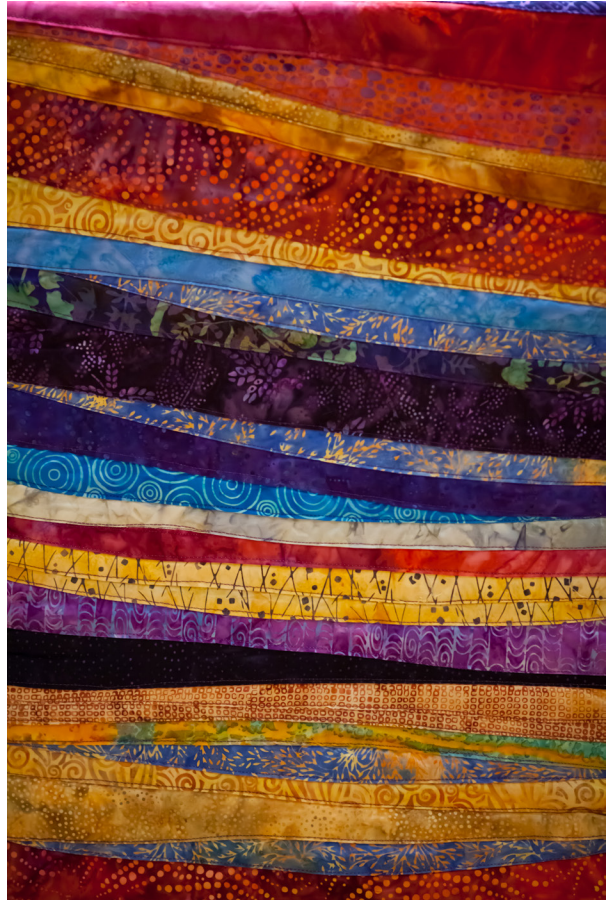
The Household of God in This Time of Change

First Church in Cambridge
2025 Stewardship Appeal

November is Stewardship season!

Check your mailbox in early November for a mailing about our annual stewardship appeal.

On **November 24**, during our morning worship service, we will ask you to tell us your plan to contribute financially to our common mission for 2025.





THIS WEEK

Looking ahead to this week's programs and events



Monday, October 28

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

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

Tuesday, October 29

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

7:00 p.m. Executive Council Meeting, via Zoom

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

Wednesday, October 30

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

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

6:30 p.m. Investment Committee, via Zoom

Have a church program or event to promote? Complete the [First Church Communications Request form](#).

Friday, November 1

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

6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering, home of the Baker family

Saturday, November 2

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast, Harter Room

Sunday, November 3

10:00 a.m. Family Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

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

12:15 p.m. Refreshments in Hastings Common

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.



First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, UCC
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